THE HYPOCRITE ACCORDING TO THE QUR'AN

Among the people there are some who say,
"We believe in Allah and the Last Day,"
when they are not believers.
(Surat al-Baqara, 8)

HARUN YAHYA

June, 2004
Edited by
David Livingstone

ISBN

All translations from the Qur'an are from The Noble Qur'an: a New Rendering of its Meaning in English by Hajj Abdalhaqq and Aisha Bewley.
Published by Bookwork,
Norwich, UK. 1420 CE/1999 AH.

Abbreviations used:
saas: saas-sall-Allahu 'alyahi wa sallam: (May Allah bless him and grant him peace)
(following a reference to the Prophet Muhammad)
as: as-'alayhi's-salam: (Peace be upon him)
(following a reference to the prophets or angels)

Website: http: // www.harunyahya.com

E-mail: info@harunyahya.com

CONTENTS

TO THE READER

A special chapter is assigned to the collapse of the theory of evolution because this theory constitutes the basis of all anti-spiritual philosophies. Since Darwinism rejects the fact of creation—and therefore, Allah's Existence—over the last 140 years it has caused many people to abandon their faith or fall into doubt. It is therefore an imperative service, a very important duty to show everyone that this theory is a deception. Since some readers may find the chance to read only one of our book, we think it appropriate to devote a chapter to summarize this subject.

All the author's books explain faith-related issues in light of Qur'anic verses, and invite readers to learn Allah's words and to live by them. All the subjects concerning Allah's verses are explained so as to leave no doubt or room for questions in the reader's mind. The books' sincere, plain, and fluent style ensure that everyone of every age and from every social group can easily understand them. Thanks to their effective, lucid narrative, they can be read at a one sitting. Even those who rigorously reject spirituality are influenced by the facts these books document and cannot refute the truthfulness of their contents.

This and all the other books by the author can be read individually, or discussed in a group. Readers eager to profit from the books will find discussion very useful, letting them relate their reflections and experiences to one another.

In addition, it will be a great service to Islam to contribute to the publication and reading of these books, written solely for the pleasure of Allah. The author's books are all extremely convincing. For this reason, to communicate true religion to others, one of the most effective methods is encouraging them to read these books.

We hope the reader will look through the reviews of his other books at the back of this book. His rich source material on faith-related issues is very useful, and a pleasure to read.

In these books, unlike some other books, you will not find the author's personal views, explanations based on dubious sources, styles that are unobservant of the respect and reverence due to sacred subjects, nor hopeless, pessimistic arguments that create doubts in the mind and deviations in the heart.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Now writing under the pen-name of HARUN YAHYA, he was born in Ankara in 1956. Having completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara, he studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, he has published many books on political, scientific, and faith-related issues. Harun Yahya is well-known as the author of important works disclosing the imposture of evolutionists, their invalid claims, and the dark liaisons between Darwinism and such bloody ideologies as fascism and communism.

His penname is a composite of the names Harun (Aaron) and Yahya (John), in memory of the two esteemed Prophets who fought against their people's lack of faith. The Prophet's seal on the his books' covers is symbolic and is linked to the their contents. It represents the Qur'an (the final scripture) and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the prophets. Under the guidance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), the author makes it his purpose to disprove each fundamental tenet of godless ideologies and to have the "last word," so as to completely silence the objections raised against religion. He uses the seal of the final Prophet, who attained ultimate wisdom and moral perfection, as a sign of his intention to offer the last word.

All of Harun Yahya's works share one single goal: to convey the Qur' an's message, encourage readers to consider basic faith-related issues such as Allah's Existence and Unity and the Hereafter; and to expose godless systems' feeble foundations and perverted ideologies.

Harun Yahya enjoys a wide readership in many countries, from India to America, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia, and Spain to Brazil. Some of his books are available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Serbo-Croat (Bosnian), Polish, Malay, Uygur Turkish, and Indonesian.

Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in many people recovering faith in Allah and gaining deeper insights into their faith. His books' wisdom and sincerity, together with a distinct style that's easy to understand, directly affect anyone who reads them. Those who seriously consider these books, can no longer advocate atheism or any other perverted ideology or materialistic philosophy, since these books are characterized by rapid effectiveness, definite results, and irrefutability. Even if they continue to do so, it will be only a sentimental insistence, since these books refute such ideologies from their very foundations. All contemporary movements of denial are now ideologically defeated, thanks to the books written by Harun Yahya.

This is no doubt a result of the Qur'an's wisdom and lucidity. The author modestly intends to serve as a means in humanity's search for Allah's right path. No material gain is sought in the publication of these works.

Those who encourage others to read these books, to open their minds and hearts and guide them to become more devoted servants of Allah, render an invaluable service.

Meanwhile, it would only be a waste of time and energy to propagate other books that create confusion in people's minds, lead them into ideological chaos, and that clearly have no strong and precise effects in removing the doubts in people's hearts, as also verified from previous experience. It is impossible for books devised to emphasize the author's literary power rather than the noble goal of saving people from loss of faith, to have such a great effect. Those who doubt this can readily see that the sole aim of Harun Yahya's books is to overcome

disbelief and to disseminate the Qur'an's moral values. The success and impact of this service are manifested in the readers' conviction.

One point should be kept in mind: The main reason for the continuing cruelty, conflict, and other ordeals endured by the vast majority of people is the ideological prevalence of disbelief. This can be ended only with the ideological defeat of disbelief and by conveying the wonders of creation and Qur'anic morality so that people can live by it. Considering the state of the world today, leading into a downward spiral of violence, corruption and conflict, clearly this service must be provided speedily and effectively, or it may be too late.

In this effort, the books of Harun Yahya assume a leading role. By the will of Allah, these books will be a means through which people in the twentyfirst century will attain the peace, justice, and happiness promised in the Qur'an.

The works of the author include The New Masonic Order, Judaism and Freemasonry, Global Freemasonry, The Kabbala and Freemasonry, The Knight Templars, Templars and Freemasonry, Israel's Policy of World Domination, Islam Denounces Terrorism, The Black Clan, Terrorism: The Ritual of the Devil, The Disasters Darwinism Brought to Humanity, Communism in Ambush, Fascism: The Bloody Ideology of Darwinism, The 'Secret Hand'in Bosnia, Holocaust Violence, Behind the Scenes of Terrorism, Israel's Kurdish Card, Communist China's Policy of Oppression in East Turkestan, Palestine, Solution: The Values of the Qur'an, The Winter of Islam and The Spring to Come, Islam and Buddhism, The Philosophy of Zionism, Articles 1-2-3, Romanticism: A Weapon of Satan, The Light of the Qur'an Has Destroyed Satanism, Signs From the Chapter of the Cave in the Qur'an to the Last Times, The End Times and the Mahdi, Signs From the Qur'an, Signs of the Last Day, The Last Times and The Beast of the Earth, Truths 1-2, Idealism The Philosophy of Matrix and the True Nature of Matter, The Western World Turns to God, The Evolution Deceit, The Perfect Design in the Universe Is Not by Chance, Why Darwinism Is Incompatable with the Qur'an, Darwinism Refuted, New Research Demolishes Evolution, A Definitive Reply to Evolutionist Propaganda, The Quandary of Evolution I-II (Encyclopedic), The Error of the Evolution of Species, The Blunders of Evolutionists, The Collapse of the Theory of Evolution in 50 Steps, The Errors of The NAS: A Reply to the National Academy of Sciences Booklet Science and Creationism, Confessions of Evolutionists, Perished Nations, For Men of Understanding, Love of Allah, Allah's Art of Affection, The Glad Tidings of the Messiah, The Prophet Musa (as), The Prophet Yusuf (as), The Prophet Muhammad (saas), The Prophet Sulayman (as), The Prophet Ibrahim (as) and the Prophet Lut (as), Maryam (as) The Exemplary Muslim Woman, The Golden Age, Allah Exists, Allah's Artistry in Colour, Magnificence Everywhere, The Importance of the Evidences of Creation, The Truth of the Life of This World, The Nightmare of Disbelief, Knowing the Truth, Eternity Has Already Begun, Timelessness and the Reality of Fate, Matter: Another Name for Illusion, The Little Man in the Tower, Islam and Karma, The Dark Magic of Darwinism, The Religion of Darwinism, The Collapse of the Theory of Evolution in 20 Questions, Allah is Known Through Reason, The Qur'an Leads the Way to Science, Consciousness in the Cell, Biomimetics Technology Imitates Nature, The Engineering in Nature, A String of Miracles, The Creation of the Universe, Miracles of the Qur'an, The Design in Nature, Self-Sacrifice and Intelligent Behaviour Models in Animals, Deep Thinking, Never Plead Ignorance, The Green Miracle: Photosynthesis, The Miracle in the Cell, The Miracle in the Eye, The Miracle in the Spider, The Miracle in the Mosquito, The Miracle in the Ant, The Miracle of the Immune System, The Miracle of Creation in Plants, The Miracle in the Atom, The Miracle in the Honeybee, The Miracle of Seed, The Miracle of Hormones, The Miracle of the Termite, The Miracle of the Human Body, The Miracle of Human Creation, The Miracle of Protein, The Miracle of Smell and Taste, The Miracle of the

Microworld, The Secrets of DNA, The Miracle in the Molecule, The Miracle of Creation in DNA, The Miracle of Talking Birds.

The author's childrens books are: Wonders of Allah's Creation, The World of Animals, The Glory in the Heavens, Wonderful Creatures, Let's Learn Our Islam, The World of Our Little Friends: The Ants, Honeybees That Build Perfect Combs, Skillful Dam Constructors: Beavers, Tell Me About Creation, The Miracle in Our Body, A Day in the Life of a Muslim, Children This is for You I-II

The author's other works on Quranic topics include: The Basic Concepts in the Qur'an, The Moral Values of the Qur'an, Quick Grasp of Faith 1-2-3, Ever Thought About the Truth?, Crude Understanding of Disbelief, Devoted to Allah, Abandoning the Society of Ignorance, Paradise: The Believers' Real Home, Learning from the Qur'an, An Index to the Qur'an, Emigrating for the Cause of Allah, The Character of the Hypocrite in the Qur'an, The Secrets of the Hypocrite, Names of Allah, Communicating the Message and Disputing in the Qur'an, Answers from the Qur'an, Death Resurrection Hell, The Struggle of the Messengers, The Avowed Enemy of Man: Satan, The Greatest Slander: Idolatry, The Religion of the Ignorant, The Arrogance of Satan, Prayer in the Qur'an, The Theory of Evolution, The Importance of Conscience in the Qur'an, The Day of Resurrection, Never Forget, Commonly Disregarded Qur'anic Rulings, Human Characters in the Society of Ignorance, The Importance of Patience in the Qur'an, Perfected Faith, Before You Regret, Our Messengers Say, The Mercy of Believers, The Fear of Allah, Jesus Will Return, Beauties for Life in the Qur'an, A Bouquet of the Beauties of Allah 1-2-3-4, The Iniquity Called "Mockery," The Mystery of the Test, Real Wisdom Described in the Qur'an, The Struggle Against the Religion of Irreligion, The School of Yusuf, The Alliance of the Good, Slanders Spread Against Muslims Throughout History, The Importance of Following the Good Word, Why Do You Deceive Yourself?, Islam: The Religion of Ease, Zeal and Enthusiasm Described in the Qur'an, Seeing Good in All, How do the Unwise Interpret the Qur'an?, Some Secrets of the Qur'an, The Courage of Believers, Hopefulness in the Qur'an, Justice and Tolerance in the Qur'an, Basic Tenets of Islam, Those Who do not Heed the Qur'an, Taking the Qur'an as a Guide, A Lurking Threat: Heedlessness, Sincerity Described in the Qur'an, The Happiness of Believers, Those Who Exhaust Their Pleasures During Their Wordly Lives, A Sly Game of Satan, Passivism in Religion, The Religion of Worshipping People, Agonies of a Fake World, How a Muslim Speaks, The Silent Language of Evil, The Ruses of the Liar in the Qur'an, Loyalty in the Qur'an, The Solution to Secret Torments.

INTRODUCTION

O ne of the most crucial attributes of a Muslim is his acceptance of the Qur'an as guidance. One who adopts the Qur'an as his guide is able to consider matters with regard to both himself and the world around him, in the light of the verses of the Qur'an, knowing that it was revealed by Allah, the Creator of not only the Qur'an, but also himself and all that is in the universe. Because Allah is He Who created all things, it is He Who knows the best what is right.

Indeed, in verse 14 of the Surat al-Mulk, Allah calls attention to that very fact, stating, **"Does He Who created not then know? He is the All-Pervading, the All-Aware."** *Al-Khabir*, that is, "the All-Aware", which is the attribute of Allah mentioned in the verse, means the One Who is aware of the inner and secret aspect of all things.

Allah knows the inmost truth of everything, and He has revealed part of His infinite knowledge through His Book, so as to guide the believers. In a verse of the Qur'an, Allah brings attention to that idea as follows:

For this We sent a Messenger to you from among you to recite Our Signs to you and purify you and teach you the Book and Wisdom and teach you things you did not know before. (Surat al-Baqara, 151)

For that reason, a Muslim must be attentive in his reading of the verses of the Qur'an and, in accordance with the following verse, **"We will show them Our Signs on the horizon and within themselves until it is clear to them that it is the truth"**, (Surah Fussilat, 53), remember that he will recognize the truth conveyed by it in the world around him. In the Qur'an, there is much concise information, which is full of divine wisdom about the world. Much important among these truths are the verses that relate to the types of associations and personalities a Muslim will encounter. A Muslim, who has been delegated the responsibility of living according to Allah's religion, of following the morality of the Qur'an, and of communicating it to others, will encounter varying types of individuals and responses. Some will listen to him, though some will oppose him. The Qur'an informs us about these personalities and their responses, and informs Muslims about the mindset they ought to adopt under specific situations.

In this book, we will explore the nature of a group of people Allah persistently draws our attention to in the Qur'an: hypocrites. Hypocrites, as the verses relate in the Qur'an, are two-faced people, who act as if they were pious believers, though they do not have faith. They are impostors. More importantly, they do not engage in such falsehood unaided; they aim to infiltrate the company of the believers, posing as one of them. The reason they seek to be accepted among the believers is to gain some personal advantage.

They associate themselves with believers, appearing to be faithful, so as to deceive them in whatever way they can. Once they realize they will not be able to attain their desired end, however, or when the believers are faced with ordeals when tested by Allah, they immediately abandon them, thus revealing their true faces. Whether while or after leaving the presence of the believers, they do not abandon their agenda of bringing harm upon the believers, or fomenting conflict, and striving to ruin the unity of believers. For that reason, hypocrites are referred to in the Qur'an as "*munafiqeen*" (those who incite *nifaq* and *fitnah*).

Hypocrites are a kind of people to whom Allah calls attention in many verses of the Qur'an, and against whom He repeatedly warns believers to be cautious. For this reason, a believer, who takes the Qur'an as his guide, needs to be vigilant against hypocrites, and be knowledgable of all their characteristics, for, every community of believers, who live by the morality of the Qur'an, will certainly encounter hypocrites.

It would be very wrong to say that such people existed only in the time of our Prophet (saas), in Macca and Medina, for,—in every other period—as today, such characters are present right before us, under modern guises.

In our present societies too, there are communities of hypocrites who assume they can conceal themselves by taking on the attributes of a believer. Deceptively, they ally with those who are unclear or insincere in their understanding of religion, as they are themselves, for the purpose of concealing the truth, changing it for falsehood, forming new sects, and bringing harm to the believers, both materially and spiritually.

The Qur'an addresses to every nation and all ages. In compliance with the following verse, **"... He will show you His Signs and you will recognize them."** (Surat an-Naml, 93), one who considers every matter in light of the Qur'an, will recognize that the verses pertaining to hypocrites in the Qur'an, are accurate, and that, in our time also, such people, proving the miracle of the Qur'an, behave as they are described in the Qur'an. In that regard, believers expect that it would be an important form of worship in Allah's sight to expose the evil intentions of the hypocrites, to reveal their true intentions, and to struggle ideologically, as prescribed by the Qur'an, to counter the war they wage against Allah and His religion.

Being acquainted with the attributes of hypocrites is important for another reason; believers are responsible for educating themselves on these attributes. Being aware that inappropriate behavior is a quality of hypocrites or disbelievers renders a believer alert against such traits. Being arrogant, as well, is an attribute of hypocrites and disbelievers. However, in a moment of inattention, a believer might also act arrogantly. However, when he realizes that what he does is an attribute of a hypocrite or disbeliever, he immediately repents. For this reason, when reading the verses in reference to hypocrites, believers should also reassess themselves and derive the necessary lessons.

In this book, we will examine the character of hypocrites in the light of the verses of the Qur'an, and the attitudes that believers should avoid.

THE FUNDAMENTAL TRAITS OF HYPOCRITES

I n their outward appearance, hypocrites are almost no different from Muslims. Their intentions, however, is entirely different. To one considering their outward appearance, hypocrites could give the impression of being a pious person; with their speech, behavior and other traits, they impersonate believers and in their manner of worship, pretend conformity to religious norms.

However, their understanding of the religion is a product of their errant rationale, rather than of the Qur'an. The basis of their perspective on religion is their ambition to reap personal benefits, and satisfy their own desires and intentions.

In concealing these intentions, hypocrites strive to take advantage of those benefits that emerge from the positive environment fostered among believers who live by the morality of the Qur'an. They seek to profit personally from this bounty, abundance, beauty, peace, security, joy, unity, compassion, love and respect Allah has granted the believers as blessings. However, they believe none recognizes their opportunism but that they can readily deceive the believers. Moreover, they believe they are successful, a good fortune they attribute to their intelligence.

However, though they think otherwise, hypocrites are truly deluded. For, to the true believer, even the slightest insincerity is apparent. Still, beyond that, Allah, Who is aware of the innermost thoughts, knows the real intentions of these people. Consequently, those attributes of a believer they pretend outwardly have no validity whatsoever in Allah's sight.

Allah relates this truth in the following verse, **"... What they are doing [their worship] is purposeless."** (Surat al-Araf, 139) Moreover, Allah knows of the hypocrites' disingenuousness, and whatever else they think are able to conceal. Consequently, in the words of the Qur'an, through such insincerity, **"... [hypocrites] deceive no one but themselves but they are not aware of it."** (Surat al-Baqara, 9)

A number of attributes of hypocrites are as follows:

They Issue From The Community Of Believers

Hypocrites must be from among the believers. Where there are no believers, one can talk about the people called idolaters or disbelievers. However, if there is a community of believers within a society, some may insinuate themselves into it, and pretend to be among them so as to gain advantage of the blessings that abound among the believers. The pursuit for personal gain is the only reason for their feigned piety.

From the verses of the Qur'an, we learn that the existence of a group of hypocrites within a community of believers is consistent reality. By living among the believers, hypocrites aim primarily at destroying their community from within, to harm them and disrupt their unity, and to support the disbelievers against them and Allah's messenger. Towards all such purposes, the hypocrites choose to remain within the community of believers, for as long as possible. According to the Qur'an:

There is a group of you who propagated the lie… (Surat an-Nur, 11)

They Appear Pious Though They Have No Faith

As we stated previously, the primary attribute of a hypocrite is his appearance of piety, though being devoid of faith. They do not harbour faith in their hearts; rather, their false piety is for ostentation. In verse of the Qur'an, Allah describes the condition of these people as follows:

Who is better: someone who founds his building on fear of Allah and His good pleasure, or someone who founds his building on the brink of a crumbling precipice so that it collapses with him into the Fire of Hell? Allah does not love wrongdoers. (Surat at-Tawba, 109)

Hypocrites expend great effort to imitate believers, for they assume that they will gain some profit by it. Out of their hypocrisy in religion, they believe they can deceive the believers by trying to talk to them in what they believe is a convincing manner. In the Qur'an, Allah draws our attention to the ploys of the hypocrites:

They swear to you by Allah in order to please you, but it would be more fitting for them to please Allah and His Messenger if they are believers. (Surat at-Tawba, 62)

Hypocrites attempt to convince others that they have faith, but act only to earn other people's consent. But, when they are alone, or with other hypocrites, they are never conscious that Allah sees them at every instant, and that He knows whatever they may be doing or thinking. Due to the impurity of their faith, they fulfill their acts of worship when they are with the believers. They act and speak as they do when they are among them. Yet, once they are alone, they cease performing their acts of worship, speak as disbelievers do, and are heedless as disbelievers are towards Allah. And, however good their skills at imitation may be, Allah has stated in the Qur'an that the hypocrites will be certainly exposed. Allah relates this truth as follows:

Among the people there are some who say, "We believe in Allah and the Last Day," when they are not believers. They think they deceive Allah and those who believe. They deceive no one but themselves but they are not aware of it. There is a sickness in their hearts and Allah has increased their sickness. They will have a painful punishment on account of their denial. (Surat al-Baqara, 8-10)

In another verse, Allah describes the condition of the hypocrites as follows:

The hypocrites think they deceive Allah, but He is deceiving them... (Surat an-Nisa', 142)

Their Outward Behavior Is To Deceive

Hypocrites are not recognizable by their outer appearances; rather, in that respect, they may be no different from sincere people. In the Qur'an, Allah refers to their ostentatious appearance, and their elaborate way of speaking:

When you see them, their outward form appeals to you, and if they speak you listen to what they say. But they are like propped-up planks of wood. They imagine every cry to be against them. They are the enemy, so beware of them. May Allah destroy them! How they are perverted! (Surat al-Munafiqun, 4)

Indeed, among the attributes of believers that hypocrites try to imitate are their physical purity and manner of dress. It is therefore hard to distinguish hypocrites from sincere believers. However, hypocrites suffer from a form of spiritual impurity that penetrates into every aspect of their lives. By the verse, **"... Leave them alone, then! They are filth...."** (Surat at-Tawba, 95), Allah informs us about this characteristic of the believers. Furthermore, Allah **"... adds defilement to their defilement..."** (Surat at-Tawba, 125) The light of faith never appears on their faces, for their minds are always devising evil, hatching plots, and occupied in treachery, hatred, deceit and jealousy. In the Qur'an, Allah describes their faces with the following example:

... It is as if their faces were covered by dark patches of the night. (Surah Yunus, 27)

In another verse, hypocrites are described as follows:

They will be plunged into abasement wherever they are found, unless they have a treaty with Allah and with the people. (Surah Al 'Imran, 112)

The faces of believers, on the other hand, are bright with the light of faith, for they are continually seeking of Allah's good pleasure. As Allah relates in the following verse, **"... Their mark is on their faces..."** (Surat al-Fath, 29) Consequently, contrary to believers, the spiritual impurity becomes apparent in their demeanor.

They Do Not Understand The Qur'an

Despite their efforts to the contrary, hypocrites, who live among believers, behave in several ways that betray their insincerity. Their manner of interpreting the verses of the Qur'an is one such case by which they reveal the sickness in their hearts. They are wholly devoid of the faculty of discernment and wisdom which Allah grants to believers in return for their sincerity, for they have no real faith, and seek in the religion only that of their corrupt thinking. For this reason, when the Qur'an is recited, they fail to acknowledge its meanings, or the admonitions and reminders it draws attention to. They seize every opportunity to formulate distorted interpretations of the verses, so as to create divisiveness among the believers, or derive from them a meaning suitable to their whims and fancies. Allah refers to this tendency of the hypocrites in the Qur'an as follows:

It is He Who sent down the Book to you from Him: verses containing clear judgements—they are the core of the Book—and others which are open to interpretation. Those with deviation in their hearts follow what is open to interpretation in it, desiring conflict, seeking its inner meaning. No one knows its inner meaning but Allah. Those firmly rooted in knowledge say, "We believe in it. All of it is from our Lord." But only people of intelligence pay heed. (Surah Al 'Imran, 7)

Sometimes, their responses make it clear that Allah's Words have not had any influence upon them. Some of the verses informing us about this condition of the hypocrites are as follows:

Each time a sura is sent down there are some among them who say, "Which of you has this increased in faith?" As for those who believe, it increases them in faith and they rejoice at it. (Surat at-Tawba, 124)

Each time a sura is sent down, they look at one another, implying, "Can anyone see you?" Then they turn away. Allah has turned their hearts away because they are people who do not understand. (Surat at-Tawba, 127)

These responses of the hypocrites, as conveyed in the verses of the Qur'an, clearly reveal that they cannot grasp their divine purposes, or draw lessons from them. Being doubtful about Allah and the religion, they assess everything with disbelief rather than submission. As Allah informs us, **"...The believers are those whose faith is increased when His Signs are recited to them."** (Surat al-Anfal, 2) However, the same verses reveal the sickness in the hypocrites' hearts. Through the influence of Satan, hypocrites wish to infect the believers with this same weakness. In conveying their corrupt interpretations, they seek to inspire vain desires in those around them, to plant doubts in their hearts, or to cause disagreements among believers. For this reason, Allah warns believers of such people:

What! Are they in doubt about the meeting with their Lord? What! Does He not encompass all things? (Surah Fussilat, 54)

They Remember Allah Little

Believers are people who constantly remember Allah, turn inwardly to Him, and seek repentance from Him. They remember Allah by themselves often, as well as remind others of Him in word and deed. Remembering Allah is a natural consequence of being conscious of Allah's blessings. In one verse of the Qur'an, the importance of the remembrance of Allah is stressed:

… Remembrance of Allah is greater still. (Surat al-'Ankabut, 45)

One of the most incriminating characteristics of hypocrites is that they are not truly devoted to Allah; they do not turn to Him, or keep their minds occupied with His remembrance, nor seek forgiveness from Him. They will remember Allah at times, but rarely, for they recognize it as essential for being perceived as a Muslim. In one verse, Allah relates this fact as follows:

The hypocrites think they deceive Allah, but He is deceiving them. When they get up to pray, they get up lazily, showing off to people, and only remembering Allah a very little. (Surat an-Nisa', 142)

In other verses, Allah relates that hypocrites are those who do not keep their minds occupied with the remembrance of Him:

Satan has gained mastery over them and made them forget the remembrance of Allah. Such people are the party of Satan. No indeed! It is the party of Satan who are the losers. (Surat al-Mujadala, 19)

The men and women of the hypocrites are as bad as one another. They command what is wrong and forbid what is right and keep their fists tightly closed. They have forgotten Allah, so He has forgotten them. The hypocrites are deviators. (Surat at-Tawba, 67)

When hypocrites remember Allah, they do not do so in the way He ought to be remembered, for they do not assign to Allah the attributes due to Him, or appreciate His grandeur, artistry and supreme knowledge. Their manner of remembering Allah is not candid, sincere and frank, for their purpose in remembering Him is solely to imitate believers. Indeed, theirs is artificial and half-hearted, and based on rote learning, and aimed at hiding their true intentions and sentiments. When talking of everyday issues, they speak fluently and easily, making use of rich vocabulary. When it comes to the remembrance of Allah, however, they falter, and speak in a manner that is contrived. That they feel the need to perform this obligation, though they do not truly desire to, causes them to develop inner misgivings towards the believers. This condition is related in the Qur'an as follows:

When Allah is mentioned on His own, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink back shuddering, but when others apart from Him are mentioned, they jump for joy. (Surat az-Zumar, 45)

In addition, they intentionally keep away from gatherings where the name of Allah is mentioned, and contrive various excuses to do so. Similarly, they also avoid places where the Qur'an is being read, for it reminds them of the truths of death, the Day of Judgment, and Hell, which they try to forget. Remembering these facts disturbs their consciences. In one verse, Allah relates this trait as follows:

[Disbelievers are] those whose eyes were blind to My remembrance and whose ears were unable to hear. (Surat al-Kahf, 101)

In another verse, Allah talks about the expression on hypocrites' faces as follows:

When Our Signs are recited to them—Clear Signs—you can detect denial in the faces of those who disbelieve. They all but assault those who recite Our Signs to them! Say: "Shall I inform you of something worse than that? The Fire which Allah has promised those who disbelieve. What an evil destination!"(Surat al-Hajj, 72)

They Are Arrogant

Another prominent characteristic of the believers is their modesty; they accept the fact that they are fallible, and thus immediately obey admonitions and warnings. Hypocrites, however, in their conceited arrogance, always think they know best, and fail to listen to advice or admit to their mistakes. They believe themselves to be clever. Further still, they regard themselves devoted servants of Allah. That the hypocrites of our Prophet's (saas) time did not accept his (saas) asking for forgiveness on their behalf is a clear sign of their conceit:

When they are told, "Come, and the Messenger of Allah will ask forgiveness for you," they turn their heads and you see them turn away in haughty arrogance. (Surat al-Munafiqun, 5)

When believers invite these people with sickness in their hearts to be sincere believers and remind them of Allah's verses, hypocrites' attitudes make it evident that they act in compliance with their conceit. They believe in their impeccability, and even do not recognize their humane mistakes. In the Qur'an, Allah relates us the end of their indulgence in their conceit:

When he is told to have fear of Allah, he is seized by pride which drives him to wrongdoing. Hell will be enough for him! What an evil resting-place! (Surat al-Baqara, 206)

When they were told, "There is no god but Allah," they were arrogant. (Surat as-Saffat, 35)

Considering themselves irreproachable, they are not disposed to recognize the end that awaits them in the Hereafter, as recompense for their moral failings and wickedness. Conceit, a characteristic typical of hypocrites, locks them in a vicious circle. Believers constantly improve themselves by making up for their mistakes and shortcomings, while hypocrites proceed into further depths of deceit. They do not benefit from admonitions. Allah informs believers about the end that awaits them, despite their supposed self-sufficiency:

No indeed! Truly man is unbridled, seeing himself as self-sufficient. (Surat al-Alaq, 6-7)

Similarly, as the verses of the Qur'an are being read, they interpret the meanings conveyed in them as if they concern not themselves, but other people. Consequently, they fail to grasp those matters from which they should be taking lessons. Although they read the Qur'an repeatedly, they consider death, the Hereafter and Hell remote. They think they are pure in intention, and, therefore, immune from punishment.

Due to their conceit, hypocrites consider other believers as inferior to themselves. Whatever they are blessed with, such as wealth, fame, status or beauty, makes them feel more arrogant, and causes them humiliate less well-off believers. The fact is, however, it is only fear of Allah that distinguishes who is superior. Believers do not esteem such false criteria; they love and respect others according to the profoundness of their faith, and not for their money, physical appearance or status. For this reason, those within the community of believers who grow in arrogance because of their possession of such blessings can be easily recognized.

They Speak What Is Not In Their Hearts

Another attribute of the hypocrites is their mendacity. Having no fear of Allah, they resort to lies whenever they are in trouble, thinking they can deceive believers. They also resort to false excuses to avoid their responsibilities. In the Qur'an, Allah draws our attention to the fact that the hypocrites of the time of our Prophet (saas), who were called to defend the Muslims against the enemy, tried to escape through lies:

What assailed you on the day the two armies met was by Allah's permission, so that He would know the believers, and so that He would know the hypocrites. They were told, "Come and fight in the Way of Allah or at least help defend us." They said, "If we knew how to fight, we would certainly follow you." They were closer to disbelief that day than to faith, saying with their mouths what was not in their hearts. And Allah knows best what they are hiding. (Surah Al 'Imran, 166-167)

As we can clearly see, hypocrites abandon the believers in times of difficulty, seeking to protect themselves and their own interests. However, the way they attempt to do so is in a hypocritical manner. That is, they try to justify their excuses. Of course, they do not admit outright that they are afraid of being harmed. Instead, they foolishly provide excuses, and try to convince believers in their genuineness. In the Qur'an, Allah relates such ploys as are typical of hypocrites:

Those Arabs who remained behind will say to you, "Our wealth and families kept us occupied, so ask forgiveness for us." They say with their tongues what is not in their hearts. Say: "Who can control Allah for you in any way whether He wants harm for you or wants benefit for you?" Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat al-Fath, 11)

And a group of them said, "People of Yathrib, Your position is untenable so return!" Some of them asked the Prophet (saas) to excuse them, saying, "Our houses are exposed," when they were not exposed; it was merely that they wanted to run away. (Surat al-Ahzab, 13)

The excuses put forward by hypocrites, such as, "If we knew how to fight, we would certainly follow you," or "our houses are unprotected," may seem legitimate. But, Allah revealed, **"[They] say with their mouths what was not in their hearts".** (Surah Al 'Imran, 167) Moreover, in telling such lies, they swear on Allah's name. In the Qur'an, Allah refers to the insincerity of hypocrites as follows:

They will swear by Allah: "Had we been able to, we would have gone out with you." (Surat at-Tawba, 42)

Another verse that refers to such lies is the following:

… and he calls Allah to witness what is in his heart, while he is in fact the most hostile of adversaries. (Surat al-Baqara, 204)

They Hinder Goodness And Compete In Wickedness

Another prominent attribute of believers is their enjoining the good and forbidding the wrong. That is to say, a believer does his utmost to call people to the morality of the Qur'an and hinder them from evil.

The tendency among hypocrites, on the other hand, is just the contrary; they try to prevent the deeds in conformity with Allah's religion and feel anguished by that which brings them good. Conversely, they become enthusiastic with regards to that which concerns their selfish whims and desires. They support whatever circumstances they think will harm believers and complicate their affairs. In the following verse, Allah states:

The men and women of the hypocrites are as bad as one another. They command what is wrong and forbid what is right and keep their fists tightly closed. They have forgotten Allah, so He has forgotten them. The hypocrites are deviators. (Surat at-Tawba, 67)

They Hate What Is Pleasing To Allah

Hypocrites go astray, for they do not conform to Allah's Will, but hate what is pleasing to Him. For believers, on the other hand, complying with Allah's good pleasure is what is of primacy, and for them the sole source of joy and happiness. On the contrary, hypocrites despise every act of worship, and do not sense pleasure in being servants to Allah. In one verse, Allah commands:

That is because they followed what angers Allah and hated what is pleasing to Him. So He made their actions come to nothing. (Surah Muhammad, 28)

They Are Ungrateful

Hypocrites, as are all other disbelievers, are ungrateful towards Allah. They are never appreciative to Allah, the Creator, Who created them, and Who provides them all manner of blessings, but turn their backs to His commands.

A second type of ingratitude found among hypocrites is that towards believers. Believers are those who help and support each other when they join their community. Believers summon each other to faith, and try to render themselves worthy of Paradise. The admonitions and reminders believers make are intended for their good.

For this trait of the believers, hypocrites harbor enmity towards them. Surely, this is true ingratitude, as mentioned in the Qur'an:

They swear by Allah that they said nothing, but they definitely spoke the word of disbelief and returned to disbelief after their Islam. They planned something which they did not achieve and they were vindictive for no other cause than that Allah and His Messenger had enriched them from His bounty. If they were to repent, it would be better for them. But if they turn away, Allah will punish

them with a painful punishment in the world and the Hereafter, and they will not find any protector or helper on the earth. (Surat at-Tawba, 74)

You can ask forgiveness for them, or not ask forgiveness for them. Even if you asked forgiveness for them seventy times, Allah still would not forgive them. That is because they have rejected Allah and His Messenger. Allah does not guide deviant people. (Surat at-Tawba, 80)

They Are Unclean Both Physically And Spiritually

In the Qur'an, Allah informs us that hypocrites are "unclean". As well as in the verse 28 of the Surat at-Tawba, which stresses that hypocrites are "unclean" in general, there is mention of their spiritual and physical impurity in those verses related to hypocrites. While outlining the difference between the mosque founded by hypocrites to cause harm to believers and divide them, and the mosque of believers, Allah draws our attention to the fact that in the mosque of believers, there are those who love to purify themselves. (Surat at-Tawba, 107-108) The Prophet (saas) also stresses the cleanliness of the faithful in one of the hadiths:

"Surely, Islam is pure, therefore be pure, because he can never enter Paradise who is not pure." (Ahmad Diya'al-Din al-Kamushkhanawi, Ramuz al-Ahadith, vol.1, 96/2)

Another verse that talks about hypocrites maintain the following:

But as for those with sickness in their hearts, it adds defilement to their defilement, and they die as disbelievers. (Surat at-Tawba, 125)

They Are Not At Ease, But Plagued With Doubt

A hypocrite's mind is filled with anxiety, worries and despondence. His misery afflicts him already while he is still in this world. Effectively, they live with great insecurity and fear. They can never attain the submission, ease and peace which believers experience.

Hypocrites feel insecure as long as they are with believers. Believers are those who have submitted themselves to Allah, and, thereby, attained the peace of mind of acknowledging that it is Allah Who removes all distress. They put their trust in Him alone.

Hypocrites, on the other hand, suffer constantly from insecurity; they never submit themselves to Allah. They are constantly fraught with the effort of justifying themselves or passing themselves off as someone else. Such efforts involve them in false pretences. They can therefore not be expected to be at peace, or feel secure and at ease.

In that disquietude, they think every adversity is a design against them. They are overly concerned that at any time they may be exposed for their hypocrisy. In the Qur'an, the state of mind of the hypocrites is related in the following verse, **"... They imagine every cry to be against them."** (Surat al-Munafiqun, 4)

In another verse, Allah informs us that hypocrites are continually distressed, as well as being deluded by false hopes:

They will call out to them, "Were we not with you?" They will reply, "Indeed you were. But you made trouble for yourselves and hung back and doubted and false hopes deluded you until Allah's command arrived. The Deluder deluded you about Allah." (Surat al-Hadid, 14)

They Despair Easily

Another telling characteristic of a hypocrite is that, although he pretends to have fortitude, he despairs when faced with even a minor misfortune. However, that is not how he presents himself to others; he maintains that he has a profound faith, and promises that he will not swerve from the straight path, and that he will seek Allah's good pleasure, whatever the circumstances may be, and that he will remain trusting in Allah in everything he does. However, all such promises are mere words while his psychological reaction differs greatly. Unaware that Allah's support and help is always available, and that there is good in everything that Allah ordains, they become despondent with slightest adversity. In a verse of the Qur'an, Allah describes the condition of hypocrites as follows:

... More fitting for them would be obedience and honorable words. Once the matter is resolved upon, being true to Allah would be better for them. (Surah Muhammad, 20-21)

Indeed, although hypocrites look very much like believers on the outside, they share many common traits with disbelievers. At times of distress, they have a disposition contrary to the believers. When they are afflicted with sickness, for instance, they rebel against Allah, despair of His mercy, and fail to put their trust in Him. However, Allah informs us that none despairs of Allah's mercy except disbelievers.

... No one despairs of solace from Allah except for people who are disbelievers. (Surah Yusuf, 87)

In addition, by His grace, Allah eases the trial he imparts upon believers, but only for those who sincerely believe. A Muslim, who submits himself to Allah sincerely, faces the unceasing succession of tests imposed on him by Allah with security, thankfulness and trust in Him. For hypocrites, on the other hand, there is fear, apprehension and anxiety. Being under the influence of Satan, hypocrites falsely assume that the difficulties they encounter have developed beyond the control of Allah's mercy, knowledge and planning. Through such responses from them as, "if I hadn't done such and such, this would not have happened", it becomes evident that they are unaware of the ultimate perfection of every instant of the divine plan decreed by Allah. Indeed, all is created by Allah, in compliance with a plan, and for a divine purpose. And, what befits a believer is to try to recognize that such a purpose has always been ordained, and to submit himself to the wisdom of fate.

They Are Apprehensive With Believers

Another attribute typical of hypocrites is the persistent fear they feel. Unlike believers, who are told to **"feel no fear and will know no sorrow"** (Surat al-Baqara, 38), hypocrites live in constant agitation. They fear the exposure of their true intentions and their dishonesty. They are in terror of their true characters being recognized, and their hypocrisy being rightly identified. In the Qur'an, this fear of the hypocrites is described as follows:

They swear by Allah that they are of your number, but they are not of your number. Rather, they are people who are scared. If they could find a bolt-hole, cave or burrow, they would turn and scurry away into it. (Surat at-Tawba, 56-57)

The extent of the terror felt by hypocrites is mentioned in another verse as follows:

You are a greater cause of terror in their breasts than Allah! That is because they are people who do not understand. (Surat al-Hashr, 13)

THEY AIM TO DECEIVE THE BELIEVERS

A s mentioned earlier, what distinguishes hypocrites from other disbelievers is that they present themselves as being believers. For the sake of achieving some gain, they wish to be among the believers, thinking it "profitable" to be amongst them.

Through every situation, a hypocrite pretends to live by the principles of Islam, in order to prove himself to believers. He performs his acts of worship for show. Yet, such worship will not be acceptable in Allah's sight, for in order for an act to be considered worship, it must be performed for Allah's good pleasure alone. Hypocrites, on the other hand, seek other people's approval rather than Allah's good pleasure. In their prayers, charity, oaths or speech, they aim to win other people's esteem, to reap some benefit and to prove themselves to others. However, sincere Muslims do not harbor such concerns, but live only to earn His good pleasure. For, they are aware that there is nothing hidden from Allah's sight, and that one will be faced with every deed he had engaged in, in His sight, even if he had forgotten it.

We can consider the characteristics of hypocrites under the following headings:

They Make Their Oaths A Cloak

Lying is one of the most frequently used methods hypocrites employ to conceal themselves within the community of believers, and to cover their dishonesty. It is such that, for hypocrites, lying almost becomes a habit, and in order to bring credibility to themselves, they resort to swearing false oaths. They swear oaths in Allah's name knowing what high regard these have in the eyes of believers. Allah reveals the true intent of the hypocrites as follows:

They made their oaths into a cloak and barred the Way of Allah, so they will have a humiliating punishment. (Surat al-Mujadala, 16)

Another verse in the Qur'an, stating that hypocrites swear falsely, is:

... And they swear to falsehood and do so knowingly. (Surat al-Mujadala, 14)

Being wrapped up in their own deceit, hypocrites are greatly deluded, assuming that their lies will not be exposed or that they will be called to account. But, according to the Qur'an: **"… Allah knows that they are lying."** (Surat at-Tawba, 42) and **"There is a sickness in their hearts and Allah has increased their sickness. They will have a painful punishment on account of their denial..."** (Surat al-Baqara, 10)

They Perform Their Prayers For Show

In the Qur'an, Allah mentions those who perform their prayers to earn people's esteem as follows:

So woe to those who do prayer, and are forgetful of their prayer, those who show off and deny help to others. (Surat al-Maun, 4-6)

With these verses, Allah introduces us the character of the hypocrite. Believers, on the other hand, as the following verse maintains, **"It is the believers who are successful: those who are humble in their prayer"** (Surat al-Muminun, 1-2), are those who sincerely turn to Allah in their prayers and feel "humility" towards Him.

Other related verses are the following:

... When they get up to pray, they get up lazily, showing off to people, and only remembering Allah a very little. (Surat an-Nisa', 142)

… and are forgetful of their prayer, those who show off and deny help to others. (Surat al-Maun, 6-7)

They Seek Esteem From Others And Not Allah's Good Pleasure

Generally, hypocrites tend to seek out other people's high regard rather than Allah's good pleasure. They are often over-exaggerated in their tempers, to present themselves as believers with fear of Allah. They perform which they do so as to make it known to everybody, and to earn the admiration of other believers. The Qur'an makes reference to the hypocrites' insincerity as follows:

They swear to you by Allah in order to please you, but it would be more fitting for them to please Allah and His Messenger if they are believers. (Surat at-Tawba, 62)

Hypocrites are concerned of their good deeds not being publicized, for they lack sincere faith. They want to bring attention to what they do to as many people as possible, in order to—in their own minds—earn the esteem of the believers. Their sole purpose is to gain prestige among others. However, all ought to remember that, because hypocrites lack sincerity, and fail to observe Allah's good pleasure, their repayment in the Hereafter may not be as expected. In many verses of the Qur'an, Allah states those who expend much effort to the point of exhaustion, yet whose efforts, or in other words, acts of worship, are of no avail. For this reason, those so reprehensible in morality should avoid such a pitiful end.

They Spend in Charity For Show

Another act of worship hypocrites perform for show is the giving of charity. Spending wealth (in the way of Allah) refers to all kinds of spending and types of donations made for Allah's cause, and to earn His good pleasure. While believers spend their wealth for Allah's good pleasure, hypocrites perform the act of worship for people's esteem. In the Qur'an, Allah reveals the hypocrites' intentions as follows:

… and also for those who spend their wealth to show off to people, not having faith in Allah and the Last Day. Anyone who has made Satan his comrade, what an evil comrade he is! What harm would it have done them to have had faith in Allah and the Last Day and to have given of what Allah has provided for them? Allah knows everything about them. (Surat an-Nisa', 38-39)

Yet, the Qur'an relates that the charity spent by hypocrites to win the esteem of others is unacceptable in Allah's sight:

Say: "Whether you give readily or reluctantly, it will not be accepted from you. You are people who are deviators." Nothing prevents what they give from being accepted from them but the fact that they have rejected Allah and His Messenger, and that they only come to prayer lethargically, and that they only give reluctantly. (Surat at-Tawba, 53-54)

From these verses, we learn that hypocrites perform their acts of worship "reluctantly." This is another reason for the persistent distress hypocrites feel. All the acts in which they engage are of no avail, for they perform them simply to impress others. Furthermore, when Allah wills, He exposes the true character of these insincere people, to invalidate their actions in this world. Therefore, hypocrites also ultimately fail to attain their desired goal: other people's approval.

In another verse, Allah provides the following example, to explain the invalidity of the acts of worship performed by those who spend for show, and His blessings upon those who spend for His good pleasure:

You who believe! Do not nullify your charity by demands for gratitude or insulting words, like him who spends his wealth, showing off to people and not believing in Allah and the Last Day. His likeness is that of a smooth rock coated with soil, which, when heavy rain falls on it, is left stripped bare. They have no power over anything they have earned. Allah does not guide disbelieving people. The metaphor of those who spend their wealth, desiring the pleasure of Allah and firmness for themselves, is that of a garden on a hillside. When heavy rain falls on it, it doubles its produce; and if heavy rain does not fall, there is dew. Allah sees what you do. (Surat al-Baqara, 264-265)

They Do Not Make A Concerted Effort In Allah's Way

Though hypocrites spend their wealth to impress others, what they spend is a pittance. What they spend is only of a small amount; they never adopt the habit peculiar to believers, as described in the verse, **"Allah has bought from the believers their selves and their wealth in return for the Garden."** (Surat at-Tawba, 111).

Believers do not hesitate to spend all their resources to earn Allah's good pleasure. Hypocrites, on the other hand, remain in the company of believers merely for personal gain. Therefore, rather than seeking Allah's good pleasure, they consider self-sacrifices as investments made for the future; they think a small gift of charity made in the name of pretence will entitle them to benefit from the bounty of blessings conferred upon the believers.

In the Qur'an, Allah draws attention to the stinginess of hypocrites:

Among them there were some who made an agreement with Allah: "If He gives us of His bounty we will definitely give alms and be among the righteous." But when He does give them of His bounty they are tight-fisted with it and turn away. So He has punished them by putting hypocrisy in their hearts until the day they meet Him because they failed Allah in what they promised Him and because they lied. (Surat at-Tawba, 75-77)

The miserliness and selfishness of a hypocrite is quite contrary to the self-sacrifice typical of a believer, for a believer seeks rewards for his deeds in Allah's sight, aiming only for the Hereafter. He has fully grasped the transitory and ephemeral nature of this world, and that the purpose of his existence here is solely to earn Allah's favor.

They Are Greedy And Selfish

As well as avoiding all types of self-sacrifice, hypocrites struggle to reap as much as they can personally from other believers. Trivialities occupy their lives, for they do not designate seeking Allah's favor its purpose. For that reason, contrary to the nobility and self-sacrifice of believers, hypocrites are greedy and selfish. According to the Qur'an, the hypocrites' profiteering from believers is mentioned as follows:

Among them there are some who find fault with you concerning the alms. If they are given some of it, they are pleased but if they are not given any, they are angry. If only they had been pleased with what Allah and His Messenger had given them and had said, "Allah is enough for us. Allah will give us of His bounty as will His Messenger. It is to Allah that we make our plea." (Surat at-Tawba, 58-59)

The phrase, "Allah is enough for us", provides a full disclosure of the believers' disposition. A believer hopes that Allah will generously reward him for his deeds in the Hereafter with His Paradise, mercy and favor. In one of his sayings, our Prophet (saas) said that the same is true for believers in the life of this world:

If you put your faith completely in Allah, He will arrange for your sustenance in the same way as He provides for the birds. They go out in the morning with their stomachs empty and return filled in the evening. (Tirmidhi)

On account of the triviality of this world, it would not befit believers to be greedy or to oppose the prophets and the believers.

A believer studiously avoids being among those described in the verse below:

But if anyone opposes the Messenger after the guidance has become clear to him, and follows other than the path of the believers, We will hand him over to whatever he has turned to, and We will roast him in Hell. What an evil destination! (Surat an-Nisa', 115)

A believer knows that Allah may grant him bounteous blessings also in this world. A hypocrite, on the other hand, being unaware of Allah and His blessings, seeks frivolous and worthless objectives, and thus degrades himself.

They Conspire Against Believers

If the hypocrites in the community of believers are more than one, they meet in private and, as the Qur'an informs us, hold "secret meetings".

A hypocrite, who strives to remain in the company of believers, will ultimately locate others who are similar to himself, who are also selfish and arrogant. They form groups, try to distance themselves from believers, and remain in each other's company. They are not comfortable to be among believers, for they remind them of their corruption, and remind them to be self-sacrificing.

Allah tells us in the Qur'an about the factions formed by the hypocrites, and the secret meetings they hold. A "secret meeting" is the congregation of hypocrites, without believers' knowledge, during which they discuss possibilities for "rebellion" or "*fitnah*". In the Qur'an, this comportment of hypocrites is described as follows:

Do you not see those who were forbidden to confer together secretly returning to the very thing they were forbidden to do, and conferring together secretly in wrongdoing and enmity and disobedience to the Messenger? And when they come to you they greet you with words Allah has never used in greeting you, and say to themselves "Why does Allah not punish us for what we say?" Hell will be enough for them! They will roast in it. What an evil destination! (Surat al-Mujadala, 8)

In another verse which informs believers about these "secret meetings", Allah says that they are held the "night."

They try to conceal themselves from people, but they cannot conceal themselves from Allah. He is with them when they spend the night saying things which are not pleasing to Him. Allah encompasses everything they do. (Surat an-Nisa', 108)

In another verse, Allah reveals that these actions of the hypocrites are inspired by Satan:

Conferring in secret is from Satan, to cause grief to those who have faith; but it cannot harm them at all, unless by Allah's permission. So let the believers put their trust in Allah... (Surat al-Mujadala, 10)

By pretending to be believers, some hypocrites strive to remain in the company of believers, only to spy and convey the information to disbelievers. Because, disbelievers consider believers their enemies, but cannot cause them harm due to the solidarity of believers. Therefore, they approach hypocrites from the community of believers, offer them certain benefits and, in return, ask for information.

This treachery of those hypocrites who lived in the time of our Prophet (saas), is revealed the verse, **"and among you there are those who hearken for their sake; and Allah knows the unjust."** (Surat at-Tawba, 47). In the Qur'an, hypocrites are described as "listeners (who collect information) on behalf of others". The related verse reads:

O Messenger! Do not be grieved by those who rush headlong into disbelief among those who say "We have faith" with their tongues when their hearts contain no faith. And among them are those who listen to lies, listeners on behalf of other folk who come not onto you... (Surat al-Ma'ida, 41)

THE FOOLISHNESS OF HYPOCRITES

Like all other disbelievers, one of the most telling characteristics of hypocrites is their foolishness. They may be clever, but they can never possess wisdom, which is an essential factor towards understanding and living by the Qur'an. For this reason, their analysis of reality is unsound. Finally, they fail to appreciate Allah and believers as they ought to be appreciated, for they lack this wisdom.

They Assume Allah Is Not Cognizant Of Their Actions

The greatest foolishness of the hypocrites is their errant assumption that Allah is unaware of what they do. They devise their plans considering only the perception of believers. If they can succeed to convince believers, and gain their approval, they think, they can accomplish their goals. The fact is however, Allah knows what hypocrites contrive. Their acts and thoughts never remain hidden from Allah. He encompasses every thought that occurs to their minds, everything they feel, even their innermost thoughts. In one verse, Allah reminds us of this truth:

... There you are, loving them when they do not love you, even though you have faith in all the Books. When they meet you, they say, "We have faith." But when they leave they bite their fingers out of rage against you. Say, "Die in your rage." Allah knows what your hearts contain. (Surah Al 'Imran, 119)

Failing to recognize that Allah is aware of what they are doing, hypocrites may assume for a time that they are deceiving the believers. The temporary concealment of their hypocrisy may actually incite them further. The Qur'an describes this corrupt logic in the following way:

Do you not see those who were forbidden to confer together secretly returning to the very thing they were forbidden to do, and conferring together secretly in wrongdoing and enmity and disobedience to the Messenger? And when they come to you they greet you with words Allah has never used in greeting you, and say to themselves "Why does Allah not punish us for what we say?" Hell will be enough for them! They will roast in it. What an evil destination! (Surat al-Mujadala, 8)

The words, "why does Allah not punish us for what we say?", clearly reveal the foolishness of the hypocrites and their lack of conscientiousness. They suppose the time granted to them is unlimited, and that they can persist as usual in their hypocrisy. Yet, this is impossible; Allah will of a certainty reveal their true intentions.

They Are Unaware Of Allah's Support Of The Believers

Hypocrites are also unaware of the support Allah provides to believers; they assess the strength of the believers based on their outer appearance. However, believers are those to whom Allah grants His help. At those times when they think they are in the greatest difficulty, Allah makes them successful.

Unaware of this truth, hypocrites deem themselves to be superior over believers. For, in appearance, they may be wealthier than the believers, or be better off in status. Allah informs us about this foolishness of the hypocrites, and that, whatever the initial circumstances may be, believers will prevail over hypocrites and other disbelievers. An event that happened in the time of our Prophet (saas) explains this situation well:

They say, "If we return to Madina, the mightier will drive out the inferior." But all might belongs to Allah and to His Messenger and the believers. But the hypocrites do not know this. (Surat al-Munafiqun, 8)

They Fear People More Than They Fear Allah

As mentioned earlier, hypocrites behave as believers, imitating while they are in their company. However when believers encounter some adversity—that is, when it is time for self-sacrifice and the type of loyalty that would show them to be sincere believers—the hypocrisy of hypocrites surfaces. This is due to their cowardice. In the words of the Qur'an, they "fear people as Allah should be feared."

Also in the Qur'an, Allah informs us about the mindset of those hypocrites who lived in our Prophet's (saas) time in times of difficulty:

Do you not see those who were told: "Hold back from fighting but establish prayers and pay alms?" Then when fighting is prescribed for them, a group of them fear people as Allah should be feared, or even more than that. They say, "Our Lord, why have you prescribed fighting for us? If only You would give us just a little more time!" Say, "The enjoyment of the world is very brief. The Hereafter is better for those who have fear of Allah. You will not be wronged by so much as the smallest speck." (Surat an-Nisa', 77)

There are some people who say, "We have faith in Allah," and then, when they suffer harm in Allah's cause, they take people's persecution for Allah's punishment; but if help comes from your Lord they say, "We were with you." Does Allah not know best what is in every person's heart? (Surat al-Ankabut, 10)

They Are In Conflict With One Another

Solidarity and unity is another important characteristic of believers. Hypocrites, on the other hand, are afflicted with a contrary. Though they all share the common characteristic of hypocrisy, they are always in conflict with one another. That is because, unlike believers, they have no common goal. That is to say, they do not seek Allah's favor. On the contrary, they all pursue their own personal benefit, and therefore, inevitably, their interests clash. In the Qur'an, Allah draws our attention to this trait of the hypocrites:

… You are a greater cause of terror in their breasts than Allah! That is because they are people who do not understand. They will not fight against you all together as a group except in fortified towns or behind high walls. Their hostility towards each other is intense. They are full of bravado in each other's company. You consider them united but their hearts are scattered wide. That is because they are people who do not use their intellect. (Surat al-Hashr, 13-14)

They Think Themselves Clever

Hypocrites think they can deceive believers. This is also why they consider themselves clever. They think they can profit by avoiding self-sacrifice, and not living their lives for Allah's sake. By choosing as such, however, they opt for a most foolish decision. While they are offered the opportunity to learn the religion, and to earn Allah's good pleasure and Paradise, they neglect these favors and cast their eyes upon the fleeting and futile adornments of this world. Instead of a grand salvation, they are deserving of the torment of Hell. In any case, they will endure great torment also in this world, as well as suffer pangs of conscience, doubts and unfounded concerns.

In the Qur'an, Allah states that hypocrites consider themselves more clever than believers, but it is they who are truly foolish:

When they are told, "Have faith in the way that the people have faith," they say, "What! Are we to have faith in the way that fools have faith?' No indeed! They are the fools, but they do not know it. (Surat al-Baqara, 13)

THEY CAUSE *FITNAH* (TRIBULATION)

H ypocrites may be recognized by their attempts to cause *fitnah* among believers. *Fitnah* refers to whatever manner of speech and ideology designed to destroy the believers' unity and their loyalty to Allah, our Prophet (saas) and the Qur'an. Being on a path of perversion themselves, hypocrites want also believers to stray onto it. Towards this end, they take advantage of any adverse situation or difficulty as an opportunity.

Under the identity as Muslims, hypocrites render service to Satan. Just as Satan's purpose is to lead believers astray and inspire them to wickedness, hypocrites, being influenced by the same motives, strive to make believers turn their faces from righteousness, by spreading *fitnah* amongst them.

They Want To Plant Vain Desires And Unfounded Concerns In People's Minds

Enthusiasm and vitality are sentiments that pervade the community of believers. An air of positivity fills their conversations; they regularly employ a manner of speaking in rememberance of the good in all things, and convey the good news of Allah's promises. The speech of a believer reflects his full consciousness of the fact that destiny is a fact. When referring to some threat, or an unfavorable occurence, for instance, he clearly stresses in a sincere manner the fact that the incident is a part of destiny, and that there is certainly some good in it. Our Prophet (saas) also stated this fact with the words, *"Everything is by decree—even incapacity and ability."* (Malik's Muwatta, Book 46, Number 4)

However, the speech of hypocrites exposes the sickness in their hearts; they refer to events in a negative manner, revealing their obliviousness that Allah pre-ordains everything in its every detail. In a sense, they are like despair-mongers. In a mood of distress, they employ a manner of speaking of those who are utterly unaware of the fact of destiny, and offer explanations as if circumstances were showing themselves designed against the believers. Their words, such as, "if you had not done such and such!", "you were unlucky", or "it is a pity that…", clearly reveal this errant understanding. Such a manner of speaking indicates they do not appreciate Allah's might.

In this way, they aim to plant vain desires and deviance in sincere Muslims. Allah warns believers against this menace, and mentions the evil of the whisperers in the Qur'an:

Say: "I seek refuge with the Lord of mankind, the King of mankind, the God of mankind, from the evil of the insidious whisperer who whispers in people's breasts and comes from the jinn and from mankind." (Surat an-Nas, 1-6)

Through such a mindset, hypocrites interpret occurrences predestined by Allah for a divine purpose as adversity, or disaster, so as to distress and demoralize believers, to break their resolve, and mislead them into despair and doubt. The fact is, however, everything that occurs in one's life is determined according to a plan, down to its minutest detail, and everything takes place under His control and will.

They Cause *Fitnah* In Times Of Difficulty

Hypocrites show their deviousness especially in times of difficulty. They become involved in conspiracies with other hypocrites, and carry on a concerted struggle to divert those they consider having profound faith from the righteous path. To this end, they will not even hesitate to cooperate with disbelievers. But, hypocrites forgot that all their plans, actions and speech are preordained, one by one, and that Allah is witness over all their deeds. With the verse, **"Allah will not give the disbelievers any way against the believers"**, (Surat an-Nisa', 141) our Lord states that the efforts of the hypocrites will be in vain. And, in another verse, Allah reveals that believers will always be victorious:

As for those who make Allah their friend, and His Messenger and those who have faith: it is the party of Allah who are victorious! (Surat al-Ma'ida, 56)

In times when the hypocrites deem the believers to be weak, they strive to mislead them into treachery, despair and despondence. Insidiously, they try to attract adherents with words that will instill doubts in their hearts and harm their faith. One of the methods used by them to this end is to spread lies about the believers.

Allah tells us in the Qur'an that they will try to plant vain desires by claims such as, **"what Allah and His Messenger promised us was mere delusion,"** (Surat al-Ahzab, 12) or **"... these people have been deluded by their religion..."** (Surat al-Anfal, 49). Hypocrites believe they recognize truths believers fail to notice.

There is an example of the false assumptions of hypocrites in Samaritan, who is said to have been a person who tried to mislead the Prophet Musa's (as) people with the words, **"... I saw what they did not see."** (Surah Taha, 96)

Another reason why hypocrites cause *fitnah* during times of difficulty is that they have more freedom to maneuver in such instances. Samaritan could cause *fitnah* only when the Prophet Musa (as) was absent, and under conditions where he thought his people were more prone to be misled. The people's response, **"We will not stop devoting ourselves to it until Musa returns to us,"** (Surah Taha, 91) is an indication that those who swerve from the right path seek opportunities in times of chaos and difficulty to foment corruption.

It is telling that the hypocrites who lived in the time of our Prophet (saas) also could not cause *fitnah* so long as our Prophet (saas) and his adherents remained strong. In the Qur'an, Allah tells us that hypocrites took advantage of the chaos of war to seek to disunite the believers:

… at that point the believers were tested and severely shaken. When the hypocrites and people with sickness in their hearts said, "What Allah and His Messenger promised us was mere delusion."(Surat al-Ahzab, 11-12)

Such expressions on behalf of the hypocrites clearly demonstrate their interpretation of the religion. For, though being amongst the community of believers, they hoped to gain some trivial gains by pretending to be of them, but every difficulty they faced seemed to them too great, and made them think that their efforts had been in vain. For this reason, with regard to the response of those around them, they tried to make the believers

succumb to the same kind of fears. A verse that tells about such efforts of the hypocrites who lived in the time of our Prophet (saas) is as follows:

… and a group of them said, "People of Yathrib, Your position is untenable so return!" (Surat al-Ahzab, 13)

The mentality of the believers, on the other hand, is referred to as follows in the Qur'an:

When the believers saw the Confederates they said: "This is what Allah and His Messenger promised us. Allah and His Messenger told us the truth." It only increased them in faith and in submission. Among the believers there are men who have been true to the contract they made with Allah. Some of them have fulfilled their pact by death and some are still waiting to do so, not having changed in any way at all. So that Allah might recompense the righteous for their sincerity and punish the hypocrites, if He wills, or turn towards them. Allah is Ever-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Surat al-Ahzab, 22-24)

Hypocrites may in various instances attempt to cause corruption. In the Qur'an, Allah informs us of such attempts on the part of the hypocrites who lived in the time of our Prophet (saas) in the following verse:

Those who were left behind were glad to stay behind the Messenger of Allah. They did not want to struggle with their wealth and themselves in the Way of Allah. They said, "Do not go out to fight in the heat." Say: "The Fire of Hell is much hotter, if they only understood." (Surat at-Tawba, 81)

Allah also informs us in the Qur'an that some of the hypocrites among the believers who followed our Prophet (saas), separated themselves from the believers the moment they sensed they would be confronted by a threat. Such a treachery is in fact a great mercy to believers from Allah, for by such means Allah purifies them from those who otherwise caused fitnah. This fact is related in the Qur'an as follows:

If they had gone out among you, they would have added nothing to you but confusion. They would have scurried about amongst you seeking to cause conflict between you, and among you there are some who would have listened to them. Allah knows the wrongdoers. They have already tried to cause conflict before, and turned things completely upside down for you, until the truth came and Allah's command prevailed even though they detested it. (Surat at-Tawba, 47-48)

They Hide Behind Excuses To Escape From Struggling In Allah's Cause

In times of difficulty, hypocrites seek to abandon the believers and pursue their own selfish aims. However, they do them in their own sanctimonious manner; in an attempt to justify themselves. They do not confess, "we are concerned about the impairment of our interests, and we do not put our trust in Allah." Instead,

they put forth excuses. The Qur'an provides us examples of some of the excuses offered by the hypocrites at the time of our Prophet (saas):

What assailed you on the day the two armies met was by Allah's permission, so that He would know the believers, and [it is] so that He would know the hypocrites. They were told, "Come and fight in the Way of Allah or at least help defend us." They said, "If we knew how to fight, we would certainly follow you." They were closer to disbelief that day than to faith, saying with their mouths what was not in their hearts. And Allah knows best what they are hiding. (Surah Al 'Imran, 166-167)

Those Arabs who remained behind will say to you, "Our wealth and families kept us occupied, so ask forgiveness for us." They say with their tongues what is not in their hearts. Say: "Who can control Allah for you in any way whether He wants harm for you or wants benefit for you?" Allah is aware of what you do. (Surat al-Fath, 11)

And a group of them said, "People of Yathrib, Your position is untenable so return!" Some of them asked the Prophet to excuse them, saying, "Our houses are exposed," when they were not exposed; it was merely that they wanted to run away. (Surat al-Ahzab, 13)

Evidently, the excuses made by the hypocrites such as, "our houses are exposed," or "our wealth and families kept us occupied", are purportedly legitimate. But, Allah revealed that they **"... say with their mouths what was not in their hearts..."** (Surah Al 'Imran, 167) As well, when telling these lies, they also swear by Allah. One of the related verses are as follows:

"Had we been able to, we would have gone out with you." They are destroying their own selves. Allah knows that they are lying. (Surat at-Tawba, 42)

Another verse relating to the lies of the hypocrites' is as follows:

... he calls Allah to witness what is in his heart, while he is in fact the most hostile of adversaries. (Surat al-Baqara, 204)

Throughout history, hypocrites have consistently made use of the same manner of deception. Consequently, no matter how much they strive to justify themselves, through several examples, Allah revealed to us this characteristic of the hypocrites so that we may recognize their insincerity. The main reason of their attempting to provide excuses is their weak faith and the sickness in their hearts. For a believer, of course, such ploys are out of the question. Indeed, out of the strength and enthusiasm they derive from faith, believers request to confront every kind of difficulty. Without fearing anyone or anything, they aim solely for Allah's good pleasure. The contrary mindset that besets the hypocrites is related in the Qur'an, with the account of an event that happened in the time of our Prophet (saas):

Then when fighting is prescribed for them, a group of them fear people as Allah should be feared, or even more than that. They say, "Our Lord, why have you prescribed fighting for us? If only You would give us just a little more time!" (Surat an-Nisa', 77)

As Allah informs us in this verse, the fear hypocrites feel towards others is so intense that it caused them to openly rebel against Allah's commands. However, their attempt to avoid conflict brought them no good. They thought they were merely being clever by avoiding difficulty in this world yet, little did they know, they were in great loss, because they ignored the eternal life to come in the Hereafter.

They Spread Falsehood Among Believers

Another way hypocrites cause *fitnah* is their spreading of falsehood among believers. When referring to any development appearing to be against the believers, they exaggerate its significance, as if it represented their doom. It is anxiety and confusion that they wish to cause among the believers. The Qur'an relates the truth of the intentions of hypocrites as follows:

When news of any matter reaches them they spread it about, whether it is of a reassuring or disquieting nature. If they had only referred it to the Messenger and those in command among them, those among them able to discern the truth about it would have had proper knowledge of it. If it were not for Allah's favor to you and His mercy, all but a very few of you would have followed Satan. (Surat an-Nisa', 83)

The appropriate way for believers to react to lies and slander on the part of such people is also related in the Qur'an, with the account of an event that happened in the time of our Prophet (saas):

There is a group of you who propagated the lie. Do not suppose it to be bad for you; rather it is good for you. Every one of them will incur the evil he has earned and the one who took it on himself to amplify it will receive a terrible punishment. Why, when you heard it, did you not, as men and women of the believers, instinctively think good thoughts and say, "This is obviously a lie?" (Surat an-Nur, 11-12)

They Cause Corruption In The Name Of Reform

As in every other matter, hypocrites are also hypocritical in causing *fitnah*. They claim that the evil in which they engage is carried out for good intentions. In actuality, by spreading false information, hypocrites aim to cause *fitnah*, instill doubts in people's minds, and break their morale. However, they never admit to these facts, but claim that they had pure intentions in doing so. But, in the Qur'an, Allah draws our attention to the insincerity of these claims of the hypocrites as follows:

When they [hypocrites] are told, "Do not cause corruption on the earth," they say, "We are only putting things right." No indeed! They are the corrupters, but they are not aware of it. (Surat al-Baqara, 11-12)

Another related verse is following:

As for those who have set up a mosque, causing harm and out of disbelief, to create division between the believers, and in readiness for those who previously made war on Allah and His Messenger, they will swear, "We only desired the best." But Allah bears witness that they are truly liars." (Surat at-Tawba, 107)

THEIR ACTIONS AGAINST BELIEVERS

As mentioned earlier, hypocrites strive to cause corruption during times of difficulty and strife. However, hypocrites' actions against the believers are by no means limited to such situations. They pursue their hostility and attempts to cause *fitnah* whenever possible. In the Qur'an, this characteristic of the hypocrites is related as, **"... Every time they are sent back to temptation, they succumb thereto..."**(Surat an-Nisa', 91)

The most evident trait of the hypocrites with this regard is their forming of factions to separate themselves from the believers. Interestingly though, even then, they will try to preserve their reputation as Muslims, while proceeding with their hypocrisy.

The most important reason for this being, as stated earlier, is a hypocrite does not acknowledge his own hypocrisy. No hypocrite would sincerely confess, "I caused *fitnah* among the pious believers, I offended believers for my own personal gain. I am a hypocrite; I do not have faith." For this reason, although he no longer remains in the company of sincere believers, he forms a faction along with those like himself, and continues to act as a Muslim. Yet, he is a disbeliever, in the true sense.

In the Qur'an, Allah relates that, after separating themselves from the believers who followed our Prophet (saas), the hypocrites established a new mosque. It is truly astounding that hypocrites would establish another mosque after having separated themselves from our Prophet (saas) and the believers who followed him. Although they veered from the true religion, they did not combine under the name of disbelief, but preserved their supposed Muslim identity. In the Qur'an, the difference between the mosque of the hypocrites and that of the believers, founded on the fear of Allah, is related as follows:

As for those who have set up a mosque, causing harm and out of disbelief, to create division between the believers, and in readiness for those who previously made war on Allah and His Messenger, they will swear, "We only desired the best." But Allah bears witness that they are truly liars. Do not ever stand in it. A mosque founded on fear of Allah from the first day has a greater right for you to stand in it. In it there are men who love to purify themselves. Allah loves those who purify themselves. Who is better: someone who founds his building on fear of Allah and His good pleasure, or someone who founds his building on the brink of a crumbling precipice so that it collapses with him into the Fire of Hell? Allah does not love wrongdoers. The buildings they have built will not cease to be a bone of contention in their hearts, until their hearts are cut to shreds. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise. (Surat at-Tawba, 107-110)

As Allah relates to us in these verses, the purpose of the mosque founded by the hypocrites was to harm the believers, and to cooperate with those who were hostile to them. Although the hypocrites who founded this mosque claimed, "We desired what was right", their real intent was clearly evil. What distinguished the mosque of believers from theirs was that it was "founded on fear of Allah and His favor." The mosque of the hypocrites, which was founded on enmity to believers, and pursuit of mundane desires, on the other hand, is, as the verse relates, "on the brink of a crumbling precipice which is about to collapse to Hell." The fitnah caused by the hypocrites, who lived in the time of our Prophet (saas), can be analyzed in the following manner:

They Wanted To Take Revenge From The Believers

The primary reason why hypocrites gather after separating themselves from believers is the hatred and anger they feel towards them. In the previous section, we mentioned that, unlike believers, hypocrites are not bound to one another through mutual love and respect. In the words of the Qur'an, "their hearts are scattered wide." This being the case, what keeps hypocrites united is their hatred and desire to exact retribution from the believers.

They want to avenge themselves, for as long as they remained in their company, believers had warned them, reminded them of their failures, scolded them for their hypocrisy, and warned that they would be repaid with Hell unless they reverted to piety. However, out of pride, they could not appreciate the noble morality adopted by the believers, and harbored instead hatred and enmity towards them.

On the 74th verse of the Surat at-Tawba, Allah draws our attention to the fact that hypocrites desire vengeance from believers:

... they were vindictive for no other cause than that Allah and His Messenger had enriched them from His bounty... (Surat at-Tawba, 74)

However, the evil efforts of the hypocrites were in vain; Allah turned their plots against them and surely disgraced them. A common characteristic of hypocrites is their following the developments of believers, to discover opportunities to take revenge upon them. They hope for misfortunes to succumb the believers. This fact is described in the Qur'an in the following words: **"If something good happens to you, it galls them. If something bad strikes you, they rejoice at it. But if you are steadfast and guard against evil, their scheming will not harm you in any way. Allah encompasses what they do."** (Surah Al 'Imran, 120)

They Cooperate With Disbelievers Against Muslims

Cooperating with disbelievers is another method hypocrites employ to exact revenge from believers. In the Qur'an, Allah draws our attention to the fact that hypocrites trust disbelievers and ally themselves to them:

Give news to the hypocrites that they will have a painful punishment. Do those who take the disbelievers as protectors, rather than the believers, hope to find power and strength with them? Power and strength belong entirely to Allah. (Surat an-Nisa', 138-139)

Hypocrites also displayed this tendency at the time of our Prophet (saas). In addition, they supported disbelievers who attacked believers, acted as informants, and encouraged others to attack the believers. This is related in the Qur'an as follows:

Did you not see the hypocrites saying to their brothers, those among the People of the Book who are disbelievers, "If you are driven out we will leave with you, we will never obey anyone to your detriment. And if you are fought against we will help you." Allah bears witness that they are truly liars. If they are driven out they will not leave with them. If they are fought against they will not help them. And if they did help them they would turn their backs, and then they would not be helped. (Surat al-Hashr, 11-12)

Another verse draws our attention to the fact that hypocrites tend to supply information about the believers to disbelievers:

O Messenger! Do not be grieved by those who rush headlong into disbelief among those who say "We have faith with" their tongues when their hearts contain no faith. And among the Jews are those who listen to lies, listeners on behalf of other folk who come not onto you, distorting words from their proper meanings, saying, "If you are given this, then take it. If you are not given it, then beware!" If Allah desires misguidance for someone, you cannot help him against Allah in any way. Those are the people whose hearts Allah does not want to purify. They will have disgrace in the world and in the Hereafter they will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Ma'ida, 41)

Hypocrites may very well assume that believers will be defeated by disbelievers, and that thereby they will have their revenge. However, they are deluded, for as the verses also relate, "power and strength belong entirely to Allah", and Allah supports the believers. The attacks and plots hatched by hypocrites and disbelievers, by Allah's grace, can by no means render harm upon the believers.

They Struggle To Tarnish The Reputation Of The Believers

A type of attack made by the hypocrites against the believers during the time of our Prophet (saas) was slander. They assumed that slandering the believers would exalt their status, and justify their separating themselves from believers, as well as their hatred towards them.

They further assumed that sharing their false accusations they made against the believers with disbelievers would degrade believers in their minds. The Qur'an draws our attention to this tactic of the hypocrites. The verse, **"... If they [hypocrites] come upon you, they will be your enemies and stretch out their hands and tongues against you with evil intent…"** (Surat al-Mumtahana, 2) maintains that hypocrites attack believers with slander. Also, the slanders they disseminated about our Prophet's (saas) wife is an example of their treachery.

In addition, Allah relates in the Qur'an that hypocrites also mock the believers. The related verse reads:

As for the people who find fault with those believers who give alms spontaneously, and with those who can find nothing to give but their own effort, and deride them, Allah derides them. They will have a painful punishment. (Surat at-Tawba, 79)

They Try To Lure Believers To Their Side

As mentioned earlier, after separating themselves from the believers, hypocrites founded a “mosque”. In addition to the slanders they concocted against the believers, and the cooperation they sought with disbelievers, they also encouraged hypocrisy among believers and called them to join them.

Towards this aim, hypocrites have sought to influence those within the community of believers who they deem to be weak of faith. They specifically targeted those who were prone to be demoralized by unfounded concerns and vain desires, so as to make them veer from the right path. A difficulty believers faced made hypocrites accelerate such evil efforts. Allah relates this in the Qur’an as follows:

Allah knows the obstructers among you and those who say to their brothers, “Come to us,” and who only come to fight a very little. (Surat al-Ahzab, 18)

ALLAH WILL EXPOSE THE HYPOCRITES AND INFLICT TORMENT UPON THEM

A ll verses related to hypocrites in the Qur'an reveal that Allah will surely expose all hypocrites concealing themselves within the community of believers. No matter how much the hypocrites may try to conceal their real identities, through their supposed cleverness, they will nevertheless be identified by believers by the will of Allah.

That is because, that is their fate. Allah created them for this purpose, and placed them among the believers so as to try them. Allah gives a detailed account of the mentalities, manner of speaking and actions of hypocrites in the Qur'an. No matter what, a hypocrite is destined to utter such language, and adopt this mindset. It is impossible for him to escape from this destiny preordained for him.

To expose the hypocrites, times of difficulty are not indispensable; that is to say, if Allah wills, He may grant believers the ability to recognize them and identify their hypocrisy. In expectation of an improvement in his attitude, believers possessed with this faculty may nevertheless show tolerance towards one displaying hypocrisy. It is for this reason a hypocrite thinks that he can conceal himself, but this is a great delusion. Once believers realize that that person is insistent on remaining insincere, they turn their backs to them.

Allah informs us in the Qur'an that hypocrites will never remain hidden:

Or did those with sickness in their hearts imagine that Allah would not expose their malevolence? If We wished, We would show them to you and you would know them by their mark and know them by their ambivalent speech. Allah knows your actions. We will test you until We know the true fighters among you and those who are steadfast and test what is reported of you. (Surah Muhammad, 29-31)

As the verses inform us, Allah may also make the hypocrites known to the believers by their demeanor and the way they talk. The symptoms of hypocrisy peculiar to these people, their fear and anxiety manifest themselves in their faces and through their speech. What hypocrites will be confronted with, in return for their hypocrisy, is a grievesome torment, both in this world and beyond.

Hypocrites Will Also Suffer Torment In This World

Causing *fitnah* in this world costs hypocrites an eternity in punishment. This is a torment that will begin when still in this world, and extend into Hell beyond death.

Specifically, they will suffer spiritual torment in this world. They live in perpetual anxiety and fear. Nevertheless, they actually know what they do is merely hypocrisy. For this reason, they feel constant pangs of conscience, throughout their lives.

In addition, they are always fearful, either before or after they have caused *fitnah*. They fear being discovered by the believers before their hypocrisy is made known. Once they separate from the believers, they live in constant fear of Allah's torment as reward for their evil. The increase in the number of those living by the principles of the Qur'an frightens the hypocrites, for, the more people submit themselves to Allah, the more they regret leaving the believers to pursue their trivial interests. For this reason, when Islamic morality is widely embraced, hypocrites may try to gain the confidence of the believers, claiming a share in their success, saying, "Were we not with you?" Allah relates in the Qur'an that these same things also occurred in the time of our Prophet (saas). The mindset of the hypocrites is conveyed in the Qur'an as follows:

Give news to the hypocrites that they will have a painful punishment. Do those who take the disbelievers as protectors, rather than the believers, hope to find power and strength with them? Power and strength belong entirely to Allah. (Surat an-Nisa', 138-139)

Those who anticipate the worst for you say, "Were we not with you?" Whenever you gain a victory from Allah, but if the disbelievers have a success they say, "Did we not have the upper hand over you and yet in spite of that keep the believers away from you?" Allah will judge between you on the Day of Rising. Allah will not give the disbelievers any way against the believers. (Surat an-Nisa', 141)

The hypocrites, who lived at the time of our Prophet (saas), also tried deceptively to gain the confidence of the believers, in order to share in the spoils gained from victories. The related verse reads:

When you go out to get the booty, those who remained behind will say, "Allow us to follow you," desiring to alter Allah's words. Say: "You may not follow us. That is what Allah said before." They will say, "It is only because you envy us." No indeed! How little they have understood! (Surat al-Fath, 15)

Evidently, hypocrites tried to approach the believers when they witnessed their success, but the believers were not deceived by them. On the contrary, believers announced their hypocrisy to everyone when they attained supremacy, and the hypocrites faced a humiliation in this world before the next.

They Will Be Cast Into The Lowest Depths Of The Fire

Hypocrites will receive the true punishment for their hypocrisy, *fitnah* and enmity in the Hereafter. The place allocated for the hypocrites in the Hereafter is the lowest depths of the Fire, that is to say, where the most intense torment will be inflicted. This fact is related in the Qur'an as follows:

The hypocrites are in the lowest level of the Fire. You will not find any one to help them. (Surat an-Nisa', 145)

The lowest level of the Fire, into which hypocrites will be cast, is described in the Qur'an as follows:

Even though they can see each other. An evildoer will wish he could ransom himself from the punishment of that Day, by means of his sons, or his wife or his brother or his family who sheltered him or everyone else on earth, if that only meant that he could save himself. But no! It is a Raging Blaze stripping away the limbs and scalp, which calls for all who drew back and turned away. (Surat al-Maarij, 11-17)

There will be sighing for them in it and they will not be able to hear. (Surat al-Anbiya, 100)

And beyond him is Hell where he will be given pus to drink. He gulps at it but can hardly swallow it down. Death comes at him from every side but he does not die. And beyond him is relentless punishment. (Surah Ibrahim, 16-17)

That Day you will see the evildoers yoked together in chains, wearing shirts of tar, their faces enveloped in the Fire. (Surah Ibrahim, 49-50)

The Tree of az-Zaqqum is the food of the wicked, seething in the belly like molten brass, as boiling water bubbles and seethes. "Seize him and drag him bodily into the middle of the Blazing Fire. Then pour the punishment of boiling water on his head." (Surat ad-Dukhan, 43-48)

Such torment to be inflicted upon the hypocrites is only in repayment for their deeds, for they harbored enmity towards the believers who merely chose to be Allah's servants, attempting to deceive them, and veer them from their righteous course, through lies and deception. They cooperated with disbelievers against believers, slandered them, and supported those plots hatched against them.

The torment they will receive, both in this world and the Hereafter, is only the punishment they deserve for what they have done. As Allah relates in one verse:

Allah does not wrong people in any way; rather it is people who wrong themselves. (Surah Yunus, 44)

THE DECEPTION OF EVOLUTION

D arwinism, in other words the theory of evolution, was put forward with the aim of denying the fact of creation, but is in truth nothing but failed, unscientific nonsense. This theory, which claims that life emerged by chance from inanimate matter, was invalidated by the scientific evidence of clear "design" in the universe and in living things. In this way, science confirmed the fact that Allah created the universe and the living things in it. The propaganda carried out today in order to keep the theory of evolution alive is based solely on the distortion of the scientific facts, biased interpretation, and lies and falsehoods disguised as science.

Yet this propaganda cannot conceal the truth. The fact that the theory of evolution is the greatest deception in the history of science has been expressed more and more in the scientific world over the last 20-30 years. Research carried out after the 1980s in particular has revealed that the claims of Darwinism are totally unfounded, something that has been stated by a large number of scientists. In the United States in particular, many scientists from such different fields as biology, biochemistry and paleontology recognize the invalidity of Darwinism and employ the concept of intelligent design to account for the origin of life. This "intelligent design" is a scientific expression of the fact that Allah created all living things.

We have examined the collapse of the theory of evolution and the proofs of creation in great scientific detail in many of our works, and are still continuing to do so. Given the enormous importance of this subject, it will be of great benefit to summarize it here.

THE SCIENTIFIC COLLAPSE OF DARWINISM

Although this doctrine goes back as far as ancient Greece, the theory of evolution was advanced extensively in the nineteenth century. The most important development that made it the top topic of the world of science was Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859. In this book, he denied that Allah created different living species on Earth separately, for he claimed that all living beings had a common ancestor and had diversified over time through small changes. Darwin's theory was not based on any concrete scientific finding; as he also accepted, it was just an "assumption." Moreover, as Darwin confessed in the long chapter of his book titled "Difficulties of the Theory," the theory failed in the face of many critical questions.

Darwin invested all of his hopes in new scientific discoveries, which he expected to solve these difficulties. However, contrary to his expectations, scientific findings expanded the dimensions of these difficulties. The defeat of Darwinism in the face of science can be reviewed under three basic topics:

1) The theory cannot explain how life originated on Earth.

2) No scientific finding shows that the "evolutionary mechanisms" proposed by the theory have any evolutionary power at all.

3) The fossil record proves the exact opposite of what the theory suggests.

In this section, we will examine these three basic points in general outlines:

THE FIRST INSURMOUNTABLE STEP: THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

The theory of evolution posits that all living species evolved from a single living cell that emerged on the primitive Earth 3.8 billion years ago. How a single cell could generate millions of complex living species and, if such an evolution really occurred, why traces of it cannot be observed in the fossil record are some of the questions that the theory cannot answer. However, first and foremost, we need to ask: How did this "first cell" originate?

Since the theory of evolution denies creation and any kind of supernatural intervention, it maintains that the "first cell" originated coincidentally within the laws of nature, without any design, plan or arrangement. According to the theory, inanimate matter must have produced a living cell as a result of coincidences. Such a claim, however, is inconsistent with the most unassailable rules of biology.

"LIFE COMES FROM LIFE"

In his book, Darwin never referred to the origin of life. The primitive understanding of science in his time rested on the assumption that living beings had a very simple structure. Since medieval times, spontaneous generation, which asserts that non-living materials came together to form living organisms, had been widely accepted. It was commonly believed that insects came into being from food leftovers, and mice from wheat. Interesting experiments were conducted to prove this theory. Some wheat was placed on a dirty piece of cloth, and it was believed that mice would originate from it after a while.

Similarly, maggots developing in rotting meat was assumed to be evidence of spontaneous generation. However, it was later understood that worms did not appear on meat spontaneously, but were carried there by flies in the form of larvae, invisible to the naked eye.

Even when Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species*, the belief that bacteria could come into existence from non-living matter was widely accepted in the world of science.

However, five years after the publication of Darwin's book, Louis Pasteur announced his results after long studies and experiments, that disproved spontaneous generation, a cornerstone of Darwin's theory. In his triumphal lecture at the Sorbonne in 1864, Pasteur said: "Never will the doctrine of spontaneous generation recover from the mortal blow struck by this simple experiment."[1]

For a long time, advocates of the theory of evolution resisted these findings. However, as the development of science unraveled the complex structure of the cell of a living being, the idea that life could come into being coincidentally faced an even greater impasse.

INCONCLUSIVE EFFORTS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The first evolutionist who took up the subject of the origin of life in the twentieth century was the renowned Russian biologist Alexander Oparin. With various theses he advanced in the 1930s, he tried to prove that a living cell could originate by coincidence. These studies, however, were doomed to failure, and Oparin had to make the following confession:

Unfortunately, however, the problem of the origin of the cell is perhaps the most obscure point in the whole study of the evolution of organisms.[2]

Evolutionist followers of Oparin tried to carry out experiments to solve this problem. The best known experiment was carried out by the American chemist Stanley Miller in 1953. Combining the gases he alleged to

have existed in the primordial Earth's atmosphere in an experiment set-up, and adding energy to the mixture, Miller synthesized several organic molecules (amino acids) present in the structure of proteins.

Barely a few years had passed before it was revealed that this experiment, which was then presented as an important step in the name of evolution, was invalid, for the atmosphere used in the experiment was very different from the real Earth conditions.[3]

After a long silence, Miller confessed that the atmosphere medium he used was unrealistic.[4]

All the evolutionists' efforts throughout the twentieth century to explain the origin of life ended in failure. The geochemist Jeffrey Bada, from the San Diego Scripps Institute accepts this fact in an article published in *Earth* magazine in 1998:

Today as we leave the twentieth century, we still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: How did life originate on Earth?[5]

THE COMPLEX STRUCTURE OF LIFE

The primary reason why the theory of evolution ended up in such a great impasse regarding the origin of life is that even those living organisms deemed to be the simplest have incredibly complex structures. The cell of a living thing is more complex than all of our man-made technological products. Today, even in the most developed laboratories of the world, a living cell cannot be produced by bringing organic chemicals together.

The conditions required for the formation of a cell are too great in quantity to be explained away by coincidences. The probability of proteins, the building blocks of a cell, being synthesized coincidentally, is 1 in 10^{950} for an average protein made up of 500 amino acids. In mathematics, a probability smaller than 1 over 10^{50} is considered to be impossible in practical terms.

The DNA molecule, which is located in the nucleus of a cell and which stores genetic information, is an incredible databank. If the information coded in DNA were written down, it would make a giant library consisting of an estimated 900 volumes of encyclopedias consisting of 500 pages each.

A very interesting dilemma emerges at this point: DNA can replicate itself only with the help of some specialized proteins (enzymes). However, the synthesis of these enzymes can be realized only by the information coded in DNA. As they both depend on each other, they have to exist at the same time for replication. This brings the scenario that life originated by itself to a deadlock. Prof. Leslie Orgel, an evolutionist of repute from the University of San Diego, California, confesses this fact in the September 1994 issue of the *Scientific American* magazine:

It is extremely improbable that proteins and nucleic acids, both of which are structurally complex, arose spontaneously in the same place at the same time. Yet it also seems impossible to have one without the other. And so, at first glance, one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.[6]

No doubt, if it is impossible for life to have originated from natural causes, then it has to be accepted that life was "created" in a supernatural way. This fact explicitly invalidates the theory of evolution, whose main purpose is to deny creation.

IMAGINARY MECHANISM OF EVOLUTION

The second important point that negates Darwin's theory is that both concepts put forward by the theory as "evolutionary mechanisms" were understood to have, in reality, no evolutionary power.

Darwin based his evolution allegation entirely on the mechanism of "natural selection." The importance he placed on this mechanism was evident in the name of his book: *The Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection…*

Natural selection holds that those living things that are stronger and more suited to the natural conditions of their habitats will survive in the struggle for life. For example, in a deer herd under the threat of attack by wild animals, those that can run faster will survive. Therefore, the deer herd will be comprised of faster and stronger individuals. However, unquestionably, this mechanism will not cause deer to evolve and transform themselves into another living species, for instance, horses.

Therefore, the mechanism of natural selection has no evolutionary power. Darwin was also aware of this fact and had to state this in his book *The Origin of Species*:

Natural selection can do nothing until favorable individual differences or variations occur.[7]

LAMARCK'S IMPACT

So, how could these "favorable variations" occur? Darwin tried to answer this question from the standpoint of the primitive understanding of science at that time. According to the French biologist Chevalier de Lamarck (1744-1829), who lived before Darwin, living creatures passed on the traits they acquired during their lifetime to the next generation. He asserted that these traits, which accumulated from one generation to another, caused new species to be formed. For instance, he claimed that giraffes evolved from antelopes; as they struggled to eat the leaves of high trees, their necks were extended from generation to generation.

Darwin also gave similar examples. In his book *The Origin of Species*, for instance, he said that some bears going into water to find food transformed themselves into whales over time.[8]

However, the laws of inheritance discovered by Gregor Mendel (1822-84) and verified by the science of genetics, which flourished in the twentieth century, utterly demolished the legend that acquired traits were passed on to subsequent generations. Thus, natural selection fell out of favor as an evolutionary mechanism.

NEO-DARWINISM AND MUTATIONS

In order to find a solution, Darwinists advanced the "Modern Synthetic Theory," or as it is more commonly known, Neo-Darwinism, at the end of the 1930's. Neo-Darwinism added mutations, which are distortions formed in the genes of living beings due to such external factors as radiation or replication errors, as the "cause of favorable variations" in addition to natural mutation.

Today, the model that stands for evolution in the world is Neo-Darwinism. The theory maintains that millions of living beings formed as a result of a process whereby numerous complex organs of these organisms (e.g., ears, eyes, lungs, and wings) underwent "mutations," that is, genetic disorders. Yet, there is an outright scientific fact that totally undermines this theory: Mutations do not cause living beings to develop; on the contrary, they are always harmful.

The reason for this is very simple: DNA has a very complex structure, and random effects can only harm it. The American geneticist B.G. Ranganathan explains this as follows:

First, genuine mutations are very rare in nature. Secondly, most mutations are harmful since they are random, rather than orderly changes in the structure of genes; any random change in a highly ordered system will be for the worse, not for the better. For example, if an earthquake were to shake a highly ordered structure such as a building, there would be a random change in the framework of the building which, in all probability, would not be an improvement.[9]

Not surprisingly, no mutation example, which is useful, that is, which is observed to develop the genetic code, has been observed so far. All mutations have proved to be harmful. It was understood that mutation, which is presented as an "evolutionary mechanism," is actually a genetic occurrence that harms living things, and leaves them disabled. (The most common effect of mutation on human beings is cancer.) Of course, a destructive mechanism cannot be an "evolutionary mechanism." Natural selection, on the other hand, "can do nothing by itself," as Darwin also accepted. This fact shows us that there is no "evolutionary mechanism" in nature. Since no evolutionary mechanism exists, no such any imaginary process called "evolution" could have taken place.

THE FOSSIL RECORD: NO SIGN OF INTERMEDIATE FORMS

The clearest evidence that the scenario suggested by the theory of evolution did not take place is the fossil record.

According to this theory, every living species has sprung from a predecessor. A previously existing species turned into something else over time and all species have come into being in this way. In other words, this transformation proceeds gradually over millions of years.

Had this been the case, numerous intermediary species should have existed and lived within this long transformation period.

For instance, some half-fish/half-reptiles should have lived in the past which had acquired some reptilian traits in addition to the fish traits they already had. Or there should have existed some reptile-birds, which acquired some bird traits in addition to the reptilian traits they already had. Since these would be in a transitional phase, they should be disabled, defective, crippled living beings. Evolutionists refer to these imaginary creatures, which they believe to have lived in the past, as "transitional forms."

If such animals ever really existed, there should be millions and even billions of them in number and variety. More importantly, the remains of these strange creatures should be present in the fossil record. In ***The Origin of Species***, Darwin explained:

If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking most closely all of the species of the same group together must assuredly have existed... Consequently, evidence of their former existence could be found only amongst fossil remains.[10]

DARWIN'S HOPES SHATTERED

However, although evolutionists have been making strenuous efforts to find fossils since the middle of the nineteenth century all over the world, no transitional forms have yet been uncovered. All of the fossils, contrary to the evolutionists' expectations, show that life appeared on Earth all of a sudden and fully-formed.

One famous British paleontologist, Derek V. Ager, admits this fact, even though he is an evolutionist:

The point emerges that if we examine the fossil record in detail, whether at the level of orders or of species, we find—over and over again—not gradual evolution, but the sudden explosion of one group at the expense of another.[11]

This means that in the fossil record, all living species suddenly emerge as fully formed, without any intermediate forms in between. This is just the opposite of Darwin's assumptions. Also, this is very strong evidence that all living things are created. The only explanation of a living species emerging suddenly and complete in every detail without any evolutionary ancestor is that it was created. This fact is admitted also by the widely known evolutionist biologist Douglas Futuyma:

Creation and evolution, between them, exhaust the possible explanations for the origin of living things. Organisms either appeared on the earth fully developed or they did not. If they did not, they must have developed from pre-existing species by some process of modification. If they did appear in a fully developed state, they must indeed have been created by some omnipotent intelligence.[12]

Fossils show that living beings emerged fully developed and in a perfect state on the Earth. That means that "the origin of species," contrary to Darwin's supposition, is not evolution, but creation.

THE TALE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION

The subject most often brought up by advocates of the theory of evolution is the subject of the origin of man. The Darwinist claim holds that modern man evolved from ape-like creatures. During this alleged evolutionary process, which is supposed to have started 4-5 million years ago, some "transitional forms" between modern man and his ancestors are supposed to have existed. According to this completely imaginary scenario, four basic "categories" are listed:

1. Australopithecus
2. Homo habilis
3. Homo erectus
4. Homo sapiens

Evolutionists call man's so-called first ape-like ancestors *Australopithecus*, which means "South African ape." These living beings are actually nothing but an old ape species that has become extinct. Extensive research done on various *Australopithecus* specimens by two world famous anatomists from England and the USA, namely, Lord Solly Zuckerman and Prof. Charles Oxnard, shows that these apes belonged to an ordinary ape species that became extinct and bore no resemblance to humans.[13]

Evolutionists classify the next stage of human evolution as "homo," that is "man." According to their claim, the living beings in the *Homo* series are more developed than *Australopithecus*. Evolutionists devise a fanciful evolution scheme by arranging different fossils of these creatures in a particular order. This scheme is imaginary because it has never been proved that there is an evolutionary relation between these different classes. Ernst Mayr, one of the twentieth century's most important evolutionists, contends in his book *One Long Argument* that "particularly historical [puzzles] such as the origin of life or of *Homo sapiens*, are extremely difficult and may even resist a final, satisfying explanation."[14]

By outlining the link chain as *Australopithecus > Homo habilis* > *Homo erectus* > *Homo sapiens*, evolutionists imply that each of these species is one another's ancestor. However, recent findings of paleoanthropologists have revealed that *Australopithecus, Homo habilis*, and *Homo erectus* lived at different parts of the world at the same time.[15]

Moreover, a certain segment of humans classified as *Homo erectus* have lived up until very modern times. *Homo sapiens neandarthalensis* and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (modern man) co-existed in the same region.[16]

This situation apparently indicates the invalidity of the claim that they are ancestors of one another. A paleontologist from Harvard University, Stephen Jay Gould, explains this deadlock of the theory of evolution, although he is an evolutionist himself:

What has become of our ladder if there are three coexisting lineages of hominids (*A. africanus*, the robust australopithecines, and *H. habilis*), none clearly derived from another? Moreover, none of the three display any evolutionary trends during their tenure on earth.[17]

Put briefly, the scenario of human evolution, which is "upheld" with the help of various drawings of some "half ape, half human" creatures appearing in the media and course books, that is, frankly, by means of propaganda, is nothing but a tale with no scientific foundation.

Lord Solly Zuckerman, one of the most famous and respected scientists in the U.K., who carried out research on this subject for years and studied *Australopithecus* fossils for 15 years, finally concluded, despite being an evolutionist himself, that there is, in fact, no such family tree branching out from ape-like creatures to man.

Zuckerman also made an interesting "spectrum of science" ranging from those he considered scientific to those he considered unscientific. According to Zuckerman's spectrum, the most "scientific"—that is, depending on concrete data—fields of science are chemistry and physics. After them come the biological sciences and then the social sciences. At the far end of the spectrum, which is the part considered to be most "unscientific," are "extra-sensory perception"—concepts such as telepathy and sixth sense—and finally "human evolution." Zuckerman explains his reasoning:

We then move right off the register of objective truth into those fields of presumed biological science, like extrasensory perception or the interpretation of man's fossil history, where to the faithful [evolutionist] anything is possible—and where the ardent believer [in evolution] is sometimes able to believe several contradictory things at the same time.[18]

The tale of human evolution boils down to nothing but the prejudiced interpretations of some fossils unearthed by certain people, who blindly adhere to their theory.

DARWINIAN FORMULA!

Besides all the technical evidence we have dealt with so far, let us now for once, examine what kind of a superstition the evolutionists have with an example so simple as to be understood even by children:

The theory of evolution asserts that life is formed by chance. According to this claim, lifeless and unconscious atoms came together to form the cell and then they somehow formed other living things, including man. Let us think about that. When we bring together the elements that are the building-blocks of life such as carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium, only a heap is formed. No matter what treatments it undergoes, this atomic heap cannot form even a single living being. If you like, let us formulate an "experiment" on this subject and let us examine on the behalf of evolutionists what they really claim without pronouncing loudly under the name "Darwinian formula":

Let evolutionists put plenty of materials present in the composition of living things such as phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, iron, and magnesium into big barrels. Moreover, let them add in these barrels any material that does not exist under normal conditions, but they think as necessary. Let them add in this mixture as many amino acids—which have no possibility of forming under natural conditions—and as many proteins—a single one of which has a formation probability of 10^{-950}—as they like. Let them expose these mixtures to as

much heat and moisture as they like. Let them stir these with whatever technologically developed device they like. Let them put the foremost scientists beside these barrels. Let these experts wait in turn beside these barrels for billions, and even trillions of years. Let them be free to use all kinds of conditions they believe to be necessary for a human's formation. No matter what they do, they cannot produce from these barrels a human, say a professor that examines his cell structure under the electron microscope. They cannot produce giraffes, lions, bees, canaries, horses, dolphins, roses, orchids, lilies, carnations, bananas, oranges, apples, dates, tomatoes, melons, watermelons, figs, olives, grapes, peaches, peafowls, pheasants, multicoloured butterflies, or millions of other living beings such as these. Indeed, they could not obtain even a single cell of any one of them.

Briefly, unconscious atoms cannot form the cell by coming together. They cannot take a new decision and divide this cell into two, then take other decisions and create the professors who first invent the electron microscope and then examine their own cell structure under that microscope. Matter is an unconscious, lifeless heap, and it comes to life with Allah's superior creation.

The theory of evolution, which claims the opposite, is a total fallacy completely contrary to reason. Thinking even a little bit on the claims of tevolutionists discloses this reality, just as in the above example.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE EYE AND THE EAR

Another subject that remains unanswered by evolutionary theory is the excellent quality of perception in the eye and the ear.

Before passing on to the subject of the eye, let us briefly answer the question of how we see. Light rays coming from an object fall oppositely on the eye's retina. Here, these light rays are transmitted into electric signals by cells and reach a tiny spot at the back of the brain, the "center of vision." These electric signals are perceived in this center as an image after a series of processes. With this technical background, let us do some thinking.

The brain is insulated from light. That means that its inside is completely dark, and that no light reaches the place where it is located. Thus, the "center of vision" is never touched by light and may even be the darkest place you have ever known. However, you observe a luminous, bright world in this pitch darkness.

The image formed in the eye is so sharp and distinct that even the technology of the twentieth century has not been able to attain it. For instance, look at the book you are reading, your hands with which you are holding it, and then lift your head and look around you. Have you ever seen such a sharp and distinct image as this one at any other place? Even the most developed television screen produced by the greatest television producer in the world cannot provide such a sharp image for you. This is a three-dimensional, colored, and extremely sharp image. For more than 100 years, thousands of engineers have been trying to achieve this sharpness. Factories, huge premises were established, much research has been done, plans and designs have been made for this purpose. Again, look at a TV screen and the book you hold in your hands. You will see that there is a big difference in sharpness and distinction. Moreover, the TV screen shows you a two-dimensional image, whereas with your eyes, you watch a three-dimensional perspective with depth.

For many years, tens of thousands of engineers have tried to make a three-dimensional TV and achieve the vision quality of the eye. Yes, they have made a three-dimensional television system, but it is not possible to watch it without putting on special 3-D glasses; moreover, it is only an artificial three-dimension. The background is more blurred, the foreground appears like a paper setting. Never has it been possible to produce a sharp and distinct vision like that of the eye. In both the camera and the television, there is a loss of image quality.

Evolutionists claim that the mechanism producing this sharp and distinct image has been formed by chance. Now, if somebody told you that the television in your room was formed as a result of chance, that all of its atoms just happened to come together and make up this device that produces an image, what would you think? How can atoms do what thousands of people cannot?

If a device producing a more primitive image than the eye could not have been formed by chance, then it is very evident that the eye and the image seen by the eye could not have been formed by chance. The same situation applies to the ear. The outer ear picks up the available sounds by the auricle and directs them to the middle ear, the middle ear transmits the sound vibrations by intensifying them, and the inner ear sends these vibrations to the brain by translating them into electric signals. Just as with the eye, the act of hearing finalizes in the center of hearing in the brain.

The situation in the eye is also true for the ear. That is, the brain is insulated from sound just as it is from light. It does not let any sound in. Therefore, no matter how noisy is the outside, the inside of the brain is completely silent. Nevertheless, the sharpest sounds are perceived in the brain. In your completely silent brain, you listen to symphonies, and hear all of the noises in a crowded place. However, were the sound level in your brain was measured by a precise device at that moment, complete silence would be found to be prevailing there.

As is the case with imagery, decades of effort have been spent in trying to generate and reproduce sound that is faithful to the original. The results of these efforts are sound recorders, high-fidelity systems, and systems for sensing sound. Despite all of this technology and the thousands of engineers and experts who have been working on this endeavor, no sound has yet been obtained that has the same sharpness and clarity as the sound perceived by the ear. Think of the highest-quality hi-fi systems produced by the largest company in the music industry. Even in these devices, when sound is recorded some of it is lost; or when you turn on a hi-fi you always hear a hissing sound before the music starts. However, the sounds that are the products of the human body's technology are extremely sharp and clear. A human ear never perceives a sound accompanied by a hissing sound or with atmospherics as does a hi-fi; rather, it perceives sound exactly as it is, sharp and clear. This is the way it has been since the creation of man.

So far, no man-made visual or recording apparatus has been as sensitive and successful in perceiving sensory data as are the eye and the ear. However, as far as seeing and hearing are concerned, a far greater truth lies beyond all this.

TO WHOM DOES THE CONSCIOUSNESS THAT SEES AND HEARS WITHIN THE BRAIN BELONG?

Who watches an alluring world in the brain, listens to symphonies and the twittering of birds, and smells the rose?

The stimulations coming from a person's eyes, ears, and nose travel to the brain as electro-chemical nerve impulses. In biology, physiology, and biochemistry books, you can find many details about how this image forms in the brain. However, you will never come across the most important fact: Who perceives these electro-chemical nerve impulses as images, sounds, odors, and sensory events in the brain? There is a consciousness in the brain that perceives all this without feeling any need for an eye, an ear, and a nose. To whom does this consciousness belong? Of course it does not belong to the nerves, the fat layer, and neurons comprising the brain. This is why Darwinist-materialists, who believe that everything is comprised of matter, cannot answer these questions.

For this consciousness is the spirit created by Allah, which needs neither the eye to watch the images nor the ear to hear the sounds. Furthermore, it does not need the brain to think.

Everyone who reads this explicit and scientific fact should ponder on Almighty Allah, and fear and seek refuge in Him, for He squeezes the entire universe in a pitch-dark place of a few cubic centimeters in a three-dimensional, colored, shadowy, and luminous form.

A MATERIALIST FAITH

The information we have presented so far shows us that the theory of evolution is a incompatible with scientific findings. The theory's claim regarding the origin of life is inconsistent with science, the evolutionary mechanisms it proposes have no evolutionary power, and fossils demonstrate that the required intermediate forms have never existed. So, it certainly follows that the theory of evolution should be pushed aside as an unscientific idea. This is how many ideas, such as the Earth-centered universe model, have been taken out of the agenda of science throughout history.

However, the theory of evolution is kept on the agenda of science. Some people even try to represent criticisms directed against it as an "attack on science." Why?

The reason is that this theory is an indispensable dogmatic belief for some circles. These circles are blindly devoted to materialist philosophy and adopt Darwinism because it is the only materialist explanation that can be put forward to explain the workings of nature.

Interestingly enough, they also confess this fact from time to time. A well-known geneticist and an outspoken evolutionist, Richard C. Lewontin from Harvard University, confesses that he is "first and foremost a materialist and then a scientist":

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, so we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.[19]

These are explicit statements that Darwinism is a dogma kept alive just for the sake of adherence to materialism. This dogma maintains that there is no being save matter. Therefore, it argues that inanimate, unconscious matter created life. It insists that millions of different living species (e.g., birds, fish, giraffes, tigers,

insects, trees, flowers, whales, and human beings) originated as a result of the interactions between matter such as pouring rain, lightning flashes, and so on, out of inanimate matter. This is a precept contrary both to reason and science. Yet Darwinists continue to defend it just so as "not to allow a Divine Foot in the door."

Anyone who does not look at the origin of living beings with a materialist prejudice will see this evident truth: All living beings are works of a Creator, Who is All-Powerful, All-Wise, and All-Knowing. This Creator is Allah, Who created the whole universe from non-existence, designed it in the most perfect form, and fashioned all living beings.

THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IS THE MOST POTENT SPELL IN THE WORLD

Anyone free of prejudice and the influence of any particular ideology, who uses only his or her reason and logic, will clearly understand that belief in the theory of evolution, which brings to mind the superstitions of societies with no knowledge of science or civilization, is quite impossible.

As explained above, those who believe in the theory of evolution think that a few atoms and molecules thrown into a huge vat could produce thinking, reasoning professors and university students; such scientists as Einstein and Galileo; such artists as Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and Luciano Pavarotti; as well as antelopes, lemon trees, and carnations. Moreover, as the scientists and professors who believe in this nonsense are educated people, it is quite justifiable to speak of this theory as "the most potent spell in history." Never before has any other belief or idea so taken away peoples' powers of reason, refused to allow them to think intelligently and logically and hidden the truth from them as if they had been blindfolded. This is an even worse and unbelievable blindness than the Egyptians worshipping the Sun God Ra, totem worship in some parts of Africa, the people of Saba worshipping the Sun, the tribe of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) worshipping idols they had made with their own hands, or the people of the Prophet Musa (pbuh) worshipping the Golden Calf.

In fact, Allah has pointed to this lack of reason in the Qur'an. In many verse, He reveals in many verses that some peoples' minds will be closed and that they will be powerless to see the truth. Some of these verses are as follows:

As for those who do not believe, it makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. Allah has sealed up their hearts and hearing and over their eyes is a blindfold. They will have a terrible punishment. (Surat al-Baqara, 2: 6-7)

… They have hearts with which they do not understand. They have eyes with which they do not see. They have ears with which they do not hear. Such people are like cattle. No, they are even further astray! They are the unaware. (Surat al-A`raf, 7: 179)

Even if We opened up to them a door into heaven, and they spent the day ascending through it, they would only say: "Our eyesight is befuddled! Or rather we have been put under a spell!" (Surat al-Hijr, 15: 14-15)

Words cannot express just how astonishing it is that this spell should hold such a wide community in thrall, keep people from the truth, and not be broken for 150 years. It is understandable that one or a few people might believe in impossible scenarios and claims full of stupidity and illogicality. However, "magic" is the only possible

explanation for people from all over the world believing that unconscious and lifeless atoms suddenly decided to come together and form a universe that functions with a flawless system of organization, discipline, reason, and consciousness; a planet named Earth with all of its features so perfectly suited to life; and living things full of countless complex systems.

In fact, the Qur'an relates the incident of Prophet Musa and Pharaoh to show that some people who support atheistic philosophies actually influence others by magic. When Pharaoh was told about the true religion, he told Prophet Musa to meet with his own magicians. When Musa did so, he told them to demonstrate their abilities first. The verses continue:

He said: "You throw." And when they threw, they cast a spell on the people's eyes and caused them to feel great fear of them. They produced an extremely powerful magic. (Surat al-A`raf, 7: 116)

As we have seen, Pharaoh's magicians were able to deceive everyone, apart from Musa and those who believed in him. However, his evidence broke the spell, or "swallowed up what they had forged," as the verse puts it.

We revealed to Musa, "Throw down your staff." And it immediately swallowed up what they had forged. So the Truth took place and what they did was shown to be false. (Surat al-A`raf, 7: 117-118)

As we can see, when people realized that a spell had been cast upon them and that what they saw was just an illusion, Pharaoh's magicians lost all credibility. In the present day too, unless those who, under the influence of a similar spell, believe in these ridiculous claims under their scientific disguise and spend their lives defending them, abandon their superstitious beliefs, they also will be humiliated when the full truth emerges and the spell is broken. In fact, world-renowned British writer and philosopher Malcolm Muggeridge also stated this:

I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books in the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.[20]

That future is not far off: On the contrary, people will soon see that "chance" is not a deity, and will look back on the theory of evolution as the worst deceit and the most terrible spell in the world. That spell is already rapidly beginning to be lifted from the shoulders of people all over the world. Many people who see its true face are wondering with amazement how they could ever have been taken in by it.

They said, "Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us.
You are the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."
(Surat al-Baqara, 32)

NOTES

1 Sidney Fox, Klaus Dose, *Molecular Evolution and The Origin of Life*, W.H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco, 1972, p. 4.

2 Alexander I. Oparin, *Origin of Life*, Dover Publications, NewYork, 1936, 1953 (reprint), p. 196.

3 "New Evidence on Evolution of Early Atmosphere and Life", *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, vol 63, November 1982, p. 1328-1330.

4 Stanley Miller, *Molecular Evolution of Life: Current Status of the Prebiotic Synthesis of Small Molecules*, 1986, p. 7.

5 Jeffrey Bada, *Earth*, February 1998, p. 40.

6 Leslie E. Orgel, "The Origin of Life on Earth", *Scientific American*, vol. 271, October 1994, p. 78.

7 Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, *The Modern Library*, New York, p. 127.

8 Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species: A Facsimile of the First Edition*, Harvard University Press, 1964, p. 184.

9 B. G. Ranganathan, *Origins?*, Pennsylvania: The Banner Of Truth Trust, 1988, p. 7.

10 Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species: A Facsimile of the First Edition*, Harvard University Press, 1964, p. 179.

11 Derek A. Ager, "The Nature of the Fossil Record", *Proceedings of the British Geological Association*, vol 87, 1976, p. 133.

12 Douglas J. Futuyma, *Science on Trial*, Pantheon Books, New York, 1983. p. 197.

13 Solly Zuckerman, *Beyond The Ivory Tower*, Toplinger Publications, New York, 1970, pp. 75-14; Charles E. Oxnard, "The Place of Australopithecines in Human Evolution: Grounds for Doubt", Nature, vol 258, p. 389.

14 "Could science be brought to an end by scientists' belief that they have final answers or by society's reluctance to pay the bills?" *Scientific American*, December 1992, p. 20.

15 Alan Walker, *Science*, vol. 207, 7 March 1980, p. 1103; A. J. Kelso, Physical Antropology, 1st ed., J. B. Lipincott Co., New York, 1970, p. 221; M. D. Leakey, Olduvai Gorge, vol. 3, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1971, p. 272.

16 Jeffrey Kluger, "Not So Extinct After All: The Primitive Homo Erectus May Have Survived Long Enough To Coexist With Modern Humans", *Time*, 23 December 1996.

17 S. J. Gould, *Natural History*, vol. 85, 1976, p. 30.

18 Solly Zuckerman, *Beyond The Ivory Tower*, p. 19.

19 Richard Lewontin, "The Demon-Haunted World," 71 Malcolm Muggeridge, *The End of Christendom*, Grand Rapids:Eerdmans, 1980, p. 43.

20 Malcolm Muggeridge, *The End of Christendom*, Grand Rapids:Eerdmans, 1980, p. 43..

BACK COVER

The men and women of the hypocrites are as bad as one another. They command what is wrong and forbid what is right and keep their fists tightly closed. They have forgotten Allah, so He has forgotten them. The hypocrites are deviators. Allah has promised the men and women of the hypocrites and unbelievers the Fire of Hell, remaining in it timelessly, for ever. It will suffice them. Allah has cursed them. They will have everlasting punishment. (Qur'an, 9:67-68)

The hypocrites think they deceive Allah, but He is deceiving them. When they get up to pray, they get up lazily, showing off to people, and only remembering Allah a very little. They vacillate between the two—not joining these or joining those. If Allah misguides someone, you will not find any way for him to go. (Qur'an, 4:142-143)

That is because they followed what angers Allah and hated what is pleasing to Him. So He made their actions come to nothing. Or did those with sickness in their hearts imagine that Allah would not expose their malevolence? If We wished, We would show them to you and you would know them by their mark and know them by their ambivalent speech. Allah knows your actions. (Qur'an, 47: 28-30)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, who writes under the pen-name Harun Yahya, was born in Ankara in 1956. He studied arts at Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University, and philosophy at Istanbul University. Since the 1980s, the author has published many books on political, faith-related and scientific issues. Greatly appreciated all around the world, these works have been instrumental in helping many to return their faith in Allah, and, in many others, to gain a deeper insight into their faith. Harun Yahya's books appeal to all kinds of readers, regardless of their age, race, or nationality, for they focus on one objective: to broaden the reader's perspective by encouraging him or her to think about a number of critical issues, such as the existence of Allah and His unity, and to live by the values He prescribed for them.